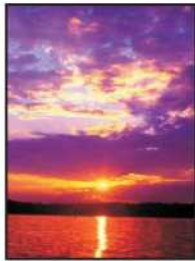


Scoping Report

Yuma Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

September 28, 2004



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Prepared for:

Yuma Field Office
Yuma, Arizona

Prepared by:



TETRA TECH, INC.

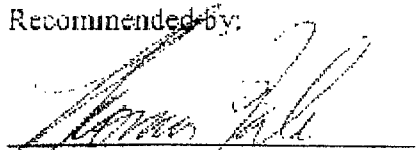
YUMA FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SCOPING REPORT

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma Field Office**

September 2004

Recommended by:

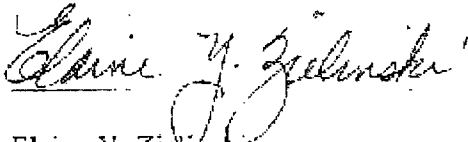


Thomas Zalc
Acting, Yuma Field Office Manager

Date:

9/28/04

Approved by:



Elaine Y. Zielinski
Arizona State Director

Date:

9-28-04

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms	iii
Section 1 – Introduction	
1.1 Overview	1- 1
1.2 Purpose and Need	1- 1
1.3 Planning Area	1- 2
1.4 Scoping Process	1- 4
1.5 Collaborative Planning Process	1- 6
Section 2 – Issue Summary	
2.1 Introduction.....	2- 1
2.2 Comment Compilation.....	2- 1
2.3 Issues Identified During Scoping.....	2- 4
2.4 Anticipated Decisions to be Made	2-40
2.5 Existing Management to be Carried Forward.....	2-41
Section 3 – Preliminary Planning Criteria	
3.1 General Planning Criteria	3- 1
Section 4 – Data Summary/Data Gaps.....	
4- 1	
Section 5 – Summary of Future Steps in the Planning Process	
5.1 Identification of Issues	5- 1
5.2 Development of Planning Criteria	5- 1
5.3 Inventory Data and Information Collection.....	5- 1
5.4 Analysis of the Management Situation	5- 1
5.5 Formulation of Alternatives.....	5- 2
5.6 Estimation of Effects of Alternatives.....	5- 2
5.7 Selection of Preferred Alternative	5- 2
5.8 Selection of Resource Management Plan	5- 2
5.9 Monitoring and Evaluation	5- 2
Section 6 – References.....	
6- 1	
Appendices	
A – Scoping Materials	
B – Comment Summary Table	

LIST OF TABLES

1	Public Scoping Meetings	1- 5
2	Comments Received by Geographic Location	2- 3
3	Summary of Public Comments by Issue Category	2- 6

LIST OF FIGURES

1	Project Location Map.....	1- 3
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
ALRIS	Arizona Land Resources Information System
AML	abandoned mine land
AWC	Arizona Wilderness Coalition
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CRU	Community Resource Unit
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
GIS	Geographic Information System
HMA	Herd Management Area
HMAP	Herd Management Area Plan
IM	Instruction Memorandum
JKA	James Kent & Associates
LCRMSCP	Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan
LTVA	Long Term Visitor Area
LUP	land use plan
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Plan
MTP	master title plat
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OHV	off-highway vehicle
R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes Act
RMIS	Recreation Management Information System
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RV	recreational vehicle
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WO	Washington Office
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WA	Wilderness Area
YFO	Yuma Field Office
YPG	Yuma Proving Grounds

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office (YFO), is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The YFO planning area encompasses 1.2 million acres along the lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California, extending as far east as the Maricopa County line.

An EIS is being prepared to identify potential effects of implementing alternative management approaches for this RMP and to identify appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts. The EIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and other associated regulations.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

YFO manages public lands under three land use plans (LUP) and nine LUP amendments. BLM has also prepared two monitoring plans for public lands managed by YFO to ensure that management actions meet plan objectives consistent with the original plans.

A Land Use Plan Evaluation was completed December 2000. The evaluation concluded that a majority of the RMP decisions were either being implemented or had been implemented. As a result of Field Office boundary adjustments and managing under multiple plans, it was recommended that a revision and consolidation of the RMP be undertaken. The objective of the planning effort is to produce a revised RMP that achieves the following:

- Creates a common vision for the planning area.
- Updates the existing management decisions for the lands in the YFO, where necessary.
- Addresses new data and integrates or modifies uses of public land that have occurred since the Yuma District RMP and other associated amendments and management/activity plans were completed.
- Addresses lands incorporated into the Field Office boundary from the Lower Gila South and Lower Gila North planning areas.
- Utilizes a collaborative approach in developing the plan with neighboring communities, the public, interested groups, and all levels of government to ensure that the RMP will best meet the needs of the future. Collaborators/partners will be involved in plan implementation as well as plan development.

- Actively engages BLM staff with the planning process, particularly regarding collaboration with partners, identification of plan issues, and development of viable alternatives.

1.3 PLANNING AREA

The planning area extends northward along the lower Colorado River from the United States-Mexico boundary at San Luis, Arizona to north of Blythe, California and Ehrenberg, Arizona. The eastern boundary extends to the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area (WA) and south along the Yuma and Maricopa county lines to the northern boundary of the Barry Goldwater Range. The western boundary generally follows the Colorado River including lands on the California side. The planning area is located in Yuma, La Paz, and Maricopa counties in Arizona and Imperial and Riverside counties in California (see Figure 1 – Project Location Map).

YFO manages a diverse combination of land and resources. The field office includes the lower Colorado River, a destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors seeking year-round water-related and off-highway recreation. On average, 250,000 visitors utilize the Quartzsite Long-Term Visitors Area (LTVA) and the five surrounding 14-day campsites on an annual basis. Within the YFO are four WAs in Arizona and portions of four different WAs in California. The YFO maintains an active lands program overseeing right-of-way usage for major utility corridors connecting energy-rich states (Texas, Wyoming, and New Mexico) to California through Arizona. Complex issues involve public lands actions from two states – California and Arizona. The YFO has an active fire management program which addresses wildland urban interface, hazardous fuel reduction, and wildland fire suppression.

Lands adjacent to the YFO planning area that require consideration in the management of the YFO include adjacent BLM Field Offices – Lake Havasu, Phoenix, and El Centro, Bureau of Reclamation, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Marine Corps Air Station – Yuma (Barry M. Goldwater Range), Cocopah Reservation, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Reservation, Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, Arizona State Lands, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and several private land owners including the regional irrigation districts.

Where urban interface issues are present, YFO collaborates with cities and towns next to public land including the City of Yuma and Town of Quartzsite; the Arizona communities of San Luis, Somerton, Dateland, Wellton, Palo Verde, Ehrenberg, and Hyder; and Blythe, California, all of whom have expressed interest in collaborating with BLM in the planning process.

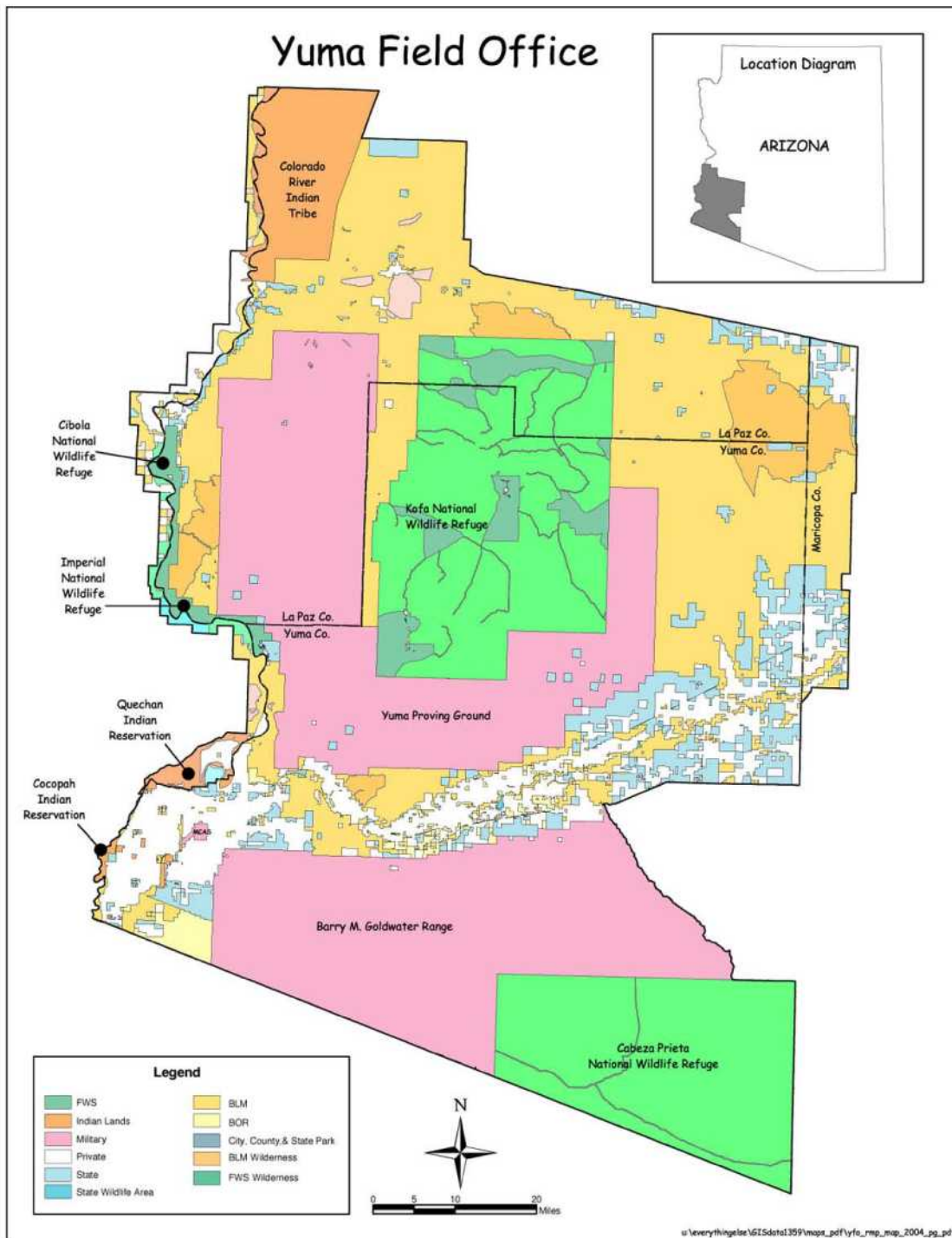


Figure 1
Project Location Map

1.4 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping is a process to identify, early in the planning process, the views, issues, and concerns regarding the project, of a wide variety of organizations and individuals including numerous federal agencies in the area and region, state agencies from Arizona and California, tribal entities, local agencies, and the general public. The intent is to determine the interests and desired future management from the public users. Objectives of scoping also include evaluating issues; determining the range of alternatives to be evaluated; identifying environmental review and consultation requirements; and developing the environmental analysis process and technical studies to address scoping issues in the RMP/EIS. For this project, BLM is the lead agency and responsible for the preparation of the RMP/EIS. Provided below is a summary of activities that occurred during the scoping period, including notices and methods available to submit comments. In addition to formal comment forms, the public was invited to submit comments via U.S. Postal Service, email, fax, or directly to the YFO. Appendix A contains copies of all project notices and comment forms distributed during the scoping period.

Notice of Intent

The official start of the YFO RMP/EIS and public scoping process began with a Notice of Intent to prepare an RMP and EIS published within the *Federal Register*. The Notice of Intent was published on March 30, 2004 (Vol. 69, Number 61, Pages 16608-16609, [AZ 050-04-1610-DO; 1610]). A copy of the Notice of Intent is included in Appendix A.

Legal Notices and Press Releases

Legal notices appeared in the regional newspapers a minimum of 15 days prior to the date a public meeting was conducted. The legal notices announcing the public scoping meetings were published in the following newspapers:

- *Yuma Daily Sun*
- *Palo Verde Valley Times*
- *Bajo El Sol*
- *Arizona Republic*

In addition, BLM prepared a press release to introduce the project and announce the scoping meetings and their respective locations. These public notices and releases were issued in May 2004 to local and regional newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Appendix A contains a list of the entities that received the press release.

Information Postcard and Flyer

BLM prepared an informational postcard as well as a flyer. The postcard was sent to a mailing list of approximately 1,200 recipients and announced the intent to prepare an RMP and EIS for the public lands managed by the YFO. The National Mailing List System provided the foundation for the mailing list. Then YFO added federal, state, Tribal, county, and city agencies that are within the YFO planning area. YFO customers such as lessees, those with rights-of-way, and permittees were also included. Organizations and individuals who expressed an interest were then added. The postcard also announced the scoping meeting schedule and provided contact information for the YFO. A comment form was provided with the postcard with a place to record written issues, update a mailing address, or request personal information be withheld from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Approximately 250 copies of the informational flyer were distributed for posting in BLM field offices and community locations such as gas stations, post offices, recreation site bulletin boards, off-highway vehicle (OHV) sites, etc. An additional 75 flyers were produced in Spanish and distributed to appropriate locations. Appendix A contains a copy of the postcard, flyer, and a list of locations at which the flyer was posted.

Scoping Meetings

A total of four public scoping meetings hosted by BLM and attended by more than 150 people were held in June 2004 during the scoping period. Table 1 lists all meeting locations, dates and times, the total number of attendees, and the number of participants.

TABLE 1 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS				
Location	Date	Time	Sign- In Sheet Attendance	Estimated Actual Attendance
Yuma, Arizona	June 1, 2004	5-7 p.m.	62	100
Blythe, California	June 2, 2004	5-7 p.m.	18	30
Quartzsite, Arizona	June 3, 2004	3-5 p.m.	46	50
Roll, Arizona	June 4, 2004	5-7 p.m.	24	30
Total			150	210

The meetings were held in an open house format to allow for an informal one-on-one exchange of information. Several stations were set-up with various BLM representatives at each one to respond to specific questions. Meeting participants were able to review maps and display boards associated with the RMP/EIS process. At each meeting, handouts and comment forms were available. The comment form asked respondents to state what they value about public lands, what uses are important on public lands, how they would like to see the resources of the area managed, and if there were any other comments they wished to provide to BLM. The questions on the comment form were identical to those questions provided on the postcard mailing. BLM

also invited participants to submit comments in formats other than the comment forms including letters and email messages.

Recreational Vehicle Park Managers' Letter

As part of BLM's effort to involve winter visitors, a letter was sent June 16, 2004 to the managers of approximately 83 recreational vehicle (RV) parks. The letter (included in Appendix A) informed the RV park managers that the YFO was initiating its RMP planning process and encouraged park managers to share this information with residents through park newsletters, bulletin boards, and informal networks that many of the parks maintain throughout the off season.

1.5 COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS

BLM's intent in using a collaborative process is to work together with other entities and individuals in order to address common needs and goals within the planning area. The effort involves the early identification of the most appropriate, efficient, and productive type of working relationships to achieve meaningful results in land use planning initiatives. BLM's primary objectives of the proposed collaboration process include providing a comprehensive forum for public involvement in order to achieve defensible decisions for the RMP; promoting multilevel agency and multi-jurisdictional participation in the planning and management process at the local and state level; utilizing internet and other modern technologies to provide real time information between the community and agencies; and integrating science into the collaborative effort to produce management decisions that not only are supported and understood by the majority of the public, but also protect natural and cultural resources.

Agency, Tribal, and public coordination and consultation are integral to a successful collaborative planning process. Collaboration with adjacent federal, state, tribal, city, and county governments will occur according to the guidelines in the "Partnership Series," a suite of courses that address, among other subjects, community development and collaboration. Provided below is a description of these activities for BLM YFO RMP/EIS process.

Agency Coordination

BLM contacted federal, state, county, and local agencies as part of initiating coordination and collaboration efforts. Agencies received postcards and were invited to comment as part of the initial scoping process and during individual agency meetings with Yuma BLM management staff. A list of agencies contacted is shown below.

Additionally, the YFO has met individually with the local offices of several Yuma area agencies for the purpose of discussing the RMP and to explain the statewide organizational change that BLM-Arizona is undergoing. Members of the YFO staff handed out RMP materials and

presented a slide show when requested. YFO facilitated discussions with the agencies, which generated issues and concerns that are documented in Section 2 - Issue Summary. Meetings with area agencies were conducted during June, July, and August 2004. To date, BLM staff has met with 13 agencies, which are marked in the list below with an asterisk (*).

BLM has a national Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with USFWS to cooperate on Section 7 Consultation for the Endangered Species Act. AGFD has an established statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM and plans to use this agreement to work collaboratively with the YFO.

Federal

- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Colorado River Agency, Phoenix Area Office, Yuma Area Office*
- Bureau of Mines
- Bureau of Reclamation – Phoenix Area Office; Yuma Area Office*; Boulder City, Nevada Regional Office
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- International Boundary and Water Commission*
- National Park Service
 - Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
 - National Trails System
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, California
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Lower Colorado River Resource Conservation and Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Defense, Air Force, Luke Air Force Base
- U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers – Los Angeles Regional Office, Phoenix Project Office, Tucson Office
- U.S. Department of Defense, Army, Yuma Proving Ground*
- U.S. Department of Defense, Marine Corps Air Station – Yuma
- U.S. Department of Defense, Navy
- U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Safety and Health
- U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration – Arizona State Office, Colorado State Office
- U.S. Department on Homeland Security, Border Patrol – Yuma Office*; Southwest Border Alliance – Yuma
- U.S. Department of Interior, Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
- Cibola National Wildlife Refuge*
- Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
- Kofa National Wildlife Refuge*
- Arizona Ecological Field Office
- U.S. Forest Service – Arizona Zone Office
- U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division

State

- Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Arizona Department of Commerce
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality – State Office, Air Quality Division, and Yuma Community Liaison
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
- Arizona Department of Public Safety
- Arizona Department of Transportation*
- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona Game and Fish Department –Yuma* and Phoenix offices
- Arizona Geological Survey
- Arizona Governor’s Office
- Arizona Office of the Attorney General
- Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
- Arizona State House of Representatives
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona State Mine Inspector
- Arizona State Parks
 - State Office
 - Yuma Crossing State Historic Park
 - Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park
- California Department of Boating and Safety
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Public Works
- California Department of Toxic Substances
- California Department of Transportation
- California Governor’s Office
- California State Historic Preservation Office
- California State Lands Commission
- California State Parks, Picacho State Recreation Area
- Colorado River Commission of Nevada
- Offices of U.S. Senators McCain and Kyl

County

- Imperial County, California
 - Board of Supervisors
 - Department of Planning and Building
 - Agriculture Commission
- La Paz County, Arizona
 - Community Development
 - Health Department
 - Public Works
- Maricopa County, Arizona
 - Board of Supervisors
 - Department of Transportation
 - Flood Control District
 - Health Department
- Mohave County, Arizona – Public Land Use Commission
- Riverside County, California
- Yuma County, Arizona
 - Board of Supervisors*
 - Development Services
 - Public Works Department
 - Sheriff's Department*

Local

- City of Blythe, California
- City of Kingman, Arizona Parks and Recreation Department
- City of Needles, California
- City of San Luis, Arizona
- City of Somerton, Arizona
- City of Tucson, Arizona
- City of Yuma, Arizona
 - City Council*
 - Parks and Recreation Department
 - Public Works Department
- Greater Yuma Economic Development Council
- Metropolitan Water District, Los Angeles
- Town of Quartzsite, Arizona
- Yuma Area Government Alliance Meeting
- Yuma Chamber of Commerce*
- Yuma International Airport
- Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization

Coordination and collaboration with these agencies will continue throughout the entire planning process.

Cooperating Agencies/Invitees

As a part of initiating multiple planning efforts throughout the state, BLM compiled a list of federal, state, county, and local agencies and Native American tribes that may have a relevant interest in the planning process. A letter was sent to more than 200 agencies to introduce the various RMP/EIS processes, identify the upcoming data gathering efforts, and offer an opportunity to become a cooperating agency in the planning effort. A cooperating agency meeting was held at the BLM Arizona State Office on October 30, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss BLM's planning process, collaborative planning, and the meaning and responsibilities of cooperating agency status. Opportunities for involvement in BLM's planning process without becoming a cooperating agency were also discussed. BLM emphasized that the goal was to encourage involvement by all interested parties using whatever methods the parties preferred.

YFO will utilize the criteria within WO IM 2002-149, "Cooperating Agency Arrangements during National Environmental Policy Act Decisionmaking and Land Use Planning," to determine which agencies to invite as a cooperator. YFO will approach a number of federal, state, county, and local agencies for cooperating agency status, including but not limited to BOR; MCAS; YPG; Kofa, Imperial, and Cibola NWRs; Yuma County; Riverside County; Imperial County; Maricopa County; and City of Yuma.

AGFD is currently operating under a statewide cooperating agency agreement and meets on a quarterly basis with the YFO to coordinate management actions. Other agencies for which BLM has a statewide MOU include Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration.

Agencies that decline the invitation to become a cooperator in the YFO RMP process will continue to be updated with planning bulletins.

Consultation with Tribes

YFO initiated tribal consultation with 29 tribes within Arizona, New Mexico, and California on June 18, 2004. A list of tribes and a copy of the consultation letter are included in Appendix A.

In the letter, BLM requested the opportunity to make a presentation on the RMP/EIS planning process at a tribal council meeting or a tribal community meeting so that council members and individuals in the tribe would have the opportunity to participate in the process and be informed about future management actions within the YFO. These efforts will continue throughout the planning and EIS process.

As of the date of this report, six tribes have responded and expressed interest in continuing to receive information and be involved in the planning process. The Mescalero Apache Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe have all responded with a letter of interest. Three tribes responded with a request for face-to-face meetings and presentations. To date, BLM staff has met with Tohono O'odham Legislative Council, Hualapai Tribe, and Fort-Yuma Quechan Tribe. At the time of contact, the Cocopah Tribe was conducting elections for Tribal Council. They postponed a meeting until the appropriate people to contact were determined.

BLM is conducting a follow-up phone call to each of the 29 tribes that received the initial consultation letter. Meetings with tribes and tribal leaders will be an ongoing effort throughout the planning process.

Discovery Process

YFO contracted the services of James Kent and Associates (JKA) on May 2001 to assist staff with the development of a preparation plan. In order to gain an improved understanding of the interests and concerns of winter visitors, the YFO retained the services of JKA to conduct agency outreach. JKA staff worked with YFO staff during the week of February 23-27, 2004 in a training session called the Discovery Process Weeklong. BLM participants were instructed in a series of techniques for conducting field interviews with the public with the goal of identifying citizen issues, especially those of the winter visitors to the Yuma area. Termed the Discovery ProcessTM, a key element is to engage members of the public who may otherwise not be represented and gather feedback about the public's feelings about public land management through one-on-one conversations that take place in common gathering areas. Other goals of the Discovery ProcessTM include developing a communication strategy for future collaborative planning efforts with winter visitors and developing staff capacity for a community-based management approach (JKA 2004). An overview of the process, results from interviews conducted as part of the Discovery ProcessTM, collaboration strategies, and a map of community units were presented in the JKA report, "Identifying the Interests and Issues of Winter Visitors in the Yuma Area: A Social Ecology Approach to Community-Based Management."

The findings of the Discovery ProcessTM were aggregated into seven general themes applicable to the planning area as a whole: (1) people believe BLM is doing a good job; (2) people bring their public land issues with them from their state of origin; (3) most issues are related to services and information, but very few to basic policy; (4) desert dumping will be an issue that has to be addressed, outside of planning; (5) ongoing urban environmental education will always be the focus of the YFO; (6) awareness is low about public lands (i.e., where people can legally go), and the regulations operating on public lands; and (7) some YFO staff recognize the need for improvements in reaching out to their publics.

Citizen issues were also organized by Community Resource Units (CRU), which are defined by JKA as "generally small settlements or parts of towns where face-to-face relationships dominate through strong caretaking systems and personal recognition," and as "the units by which people

distinguish one settlement from another” (JKA 2004). At least 13 CRUs were identified within the YFO planning area. Limited resources precluded full study of every CRU. The issues raised by citizens during interviews in the six surveyed CRUs are summarized below.

Quartzsite CRU

- **Management of the LTVAs** – Concerns about dumping, vehicles going too fast in the LTVAs, generator noise in campgrounds, and need for more dump and water stations.
- **Tax Burdens** – Issues about compensation for the police and fire departments’ costs to respond to emergencies in its service area, which includes the LTVAs. In effect, the taxpayers of its district subsidize the camping areas.
- **Land Availability** – Business owners expressed interest in BLM releasing land for development. Some residents from the Town of Quartzsite were frustrated about the lack of additional rights-of-way and Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) leases.
- **Information** – More informational maps and brochures were requested, as was information about appropriate areas for recreational vehicle (RV) waste dumping.
- **Desert Dumping** – Volunteers are willing to help with clean up, and it was suggested that BLM put out trash receptacles.

Oxbow CRU

- **Information** – Visitors had questions about wood collection and campfires.
- **Facilities and Services** – Visitors expressed desire for water, access to closed areas, increased parking areas, and telephone service.

Martinez CRU

- **Management** – Citizens expressed desire to participate with BLM through partnerships and other activities.
- **Information** – Citizens requested more information about recreational opportunities, fee structures, and maps of public land locations.
- **Facilities and Services** – Citizen concerns included lack of water services, insufficient road maintenance, and additional dump stations.

- **Resource Impacts** – Concerns included access for OHV activity, dumpsite clean-ups, and wildlife impacts by OHV users.

Yuma Metro CRU

- **Resource Impacts** – Citizen concerns included desert dumping and dust control problems.
- **Information** – Comments included requests for more information about recreation opportunities and more presence by BLM staff.

Foothills CRU

- **Management and Protection** – Citizen comments included praise for BLM getting water to LTVAs; the sentiment that there were “too many rules on public land,” and a lack of law enforcement to enforce the rules; desire to not sell or develop area south of Telegraph Pass; and desire for maintenance of open space.
- **Information** – Desires for improved brochures, increased availability of brochures and maps, increased education about rules, brochures on flora and fauna, better signage.
- **Recreation Access** – Did not agree with decision to close Imperial Sand Dunes, desire for more information about short-term camping opportunities, rotate camping areas, and wish that Golden Eagle passports were accepted for all public lands.
- **Resource Impacts** – Need more education to address desert dumping. Other concerns included dust control problems and fire management.

The Dome-Wellton/Dateland Area (combination of 3 CRUs)

- **Management** – Wanted to know why specific areas are closed. Desire to partner with BLM.
- **Information** – Need information at Visitor Information Bureau, desire for more maps, better signage, and more information about camping areas and what rules are.

In addition to including representative comments on the above issues, the JKA report provides generalized findings and themes about citizen comments, as well as communication opportunities (strategies for reaching the public), and action opportunities (ideas for specific activities to reach the public). The full report is available through the YFO office.

SECTION 2 – ISSUE SUMMARY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The scoping period officially commenced with publication of the *Federal Register* Notice of Intent on March 30, 2004. While BLM welcomes and considers public comment throughout the planning process, BLM requested that all initial scoping comments be submitted by June 30, 2004, in order to identify the issues to be addressed in the planning studies. Written comments were submitted to BLM by comment cards, meeting comment forms, in letters, and via email. BLM also noted comments received during agency and tribal consultation meetings as well as other meetings or conversations with the public. BLM will continue to consider public comments throughout development of the RMP/EIS.

2.2 COMMENT COMPILATION

During the scoping period, BLM received a total of approximately 433 written responses in the form of letters, email messages, and comment forms/comment cards. BLM also recorded 34 comments on flip charts that were available for the public's use at the public scoping meetings, for a total of 467 responses received during scoping.

Approximately 261 of the written responses were received via email as an identical "form letter," accounting for more than 60 percent of the written responses. Therefore, including the content of the form letter there were a total of 173 unique written responses. The form letter discussed issues including the identification and protection of areas with wilderness characteristics, protection of supplemental values, restoration, OHV use and access, travel route designations, Sonoran pronghorn, and international border issues.

In addition to the form letter, 172 individuals, agencies, and/or special interest groups submitted written responses. Of these, the majority (125 or about 72 percent) of written responses were provided on comment cards or comment forms. Both forms asked the public to provide information about (1) what they value about public lands, (2) which uses are important, (3) how the resources of the area should be managed, and (4) other comments they wished to provide to BLM. Issues identified in the flip-chart comments received at the meetings were generally repeated in the written comments received during the scoping period.

Comment letters were received from the following agencies and organizations:

Federal

- Federal Highway Administration

State

- Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
- Arizona Game and Fish Department

Local Government

- City of Yuma

Businesses

- Chaparral Guides and Outfitters
- Loren Pratt Farms
- Rivpa Land Resort
- Sakata Seed America, Inc.
- Seven Lakes Company

Special Interest Groups

- Arizona Cotton Growers Association
- Arizona Native Plant Society Conservation Committee
- Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC)
- Blythe Riding Club (Scoping Meeting Comment)
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Colorado River Board of California
- Forest Guardians
- La Cuna Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle Advisory Committee
- Pacific Legal Foundation
- Phoenix Zoo
- Quartzsite Historical Society
- Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club
- Sierra Club
- Wilderness Society
- Wildlife Management Institute
- Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club

All comments received were reviewed and manually entered into an electronic database which enabled comments to be sorted several ways including by geography, type of issue, type of submitter (agency, individual, special interest group), and source of comment (comment card, email, letter, etc.). Each response often contained more than one comment or issue. It should be noted that 18 responses (10 percent of the 172 written responses), indicated only mailing list requests (to be added, change information, or be removed from the mailing list) and included no comments. Therefore, of the 207 total responses received during the scoping period (this total reflects both written comments and comments received at the scoping meetings), 189 contained comments. Within those 189 responses, 626 issues were identified. Because the same issue or comment was often reiterated or duplicated in other responses, an estimated 361 unique comments were received during the scoping period.

Table 2 shows the number of responses received from each state. In most instances, totals are reflected by state. Some communities within Arizona and California are listed separately for informational purposes. In total, 228 of the 433 total responses were received from outside of Arizona or California, accounting for approximately 53 percent of the total responses. Many of

these out-of-state responses can be attributed to the form letter. The City of Yuma submitted the most responses locally, accounting for 10 percent of all written responses.

TABLE 2 COMMENTS RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		
Location	Number of Comments	Percent of Written Comments
Alaska	1	0.2
Arizona		
Parker	4	1.0
Phoenix	11	2.5
Prescott	5	1.1
Quartzsite	17	4.0
Tucson	12	2.8
Wellton	4	1.0
Yuma	43	10.0
Other	34	8.0
Arkansas	1	0.2
California		
Blythe/Palo Verde	7	1.5
Other	62	14.0
Colorado	9	2.0
Connecticut	8	1.8
District of Columbia	2	0.5
Florida	27	6.0
Georgia	6	1.4
Hawaii	3	0.7
Idaho	1	0.2
Illinois	16	3.7
Indiana	4	1.0
Iowa	5	1.1
Kansas	5	1.1
Kentucky	1	0.2
Louisiana	3	0.7
Maine	1	0.2
Maryland	6	1.4
Massachusetts	4	1.0
Michigan	1	0.2
Minnesota	4	1.0
Missouri	3	0.7
Montana	1	0.2
Nevada	3	0.7
New Hampshire	2	0.5
New Jersey	4	1.0
New Mexico	6	1.4
New York	16	3.7
North Carolina	2	0.5
Ohio	10	2.0
Oklahoma	2	0.5
Oregon	5	1.1
Pennsylvania	13	3.0

TABLE 2 COMMENTS RECEIVED BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		
Location	Number of Comments	Percent of Written Comments
Rhode Island	3	0.7
South Carolina	2	0.5
South Dakota	1	0.2
Tennessee	4	1.0
Texas	20	5.0
Utah	1	0.2
Vermont	2	0.5
Virginia	5	1.1
Washington	11	2.5
Wisconsin	2	0.5
Wyoming	1	0.2
Not provided	6	1.0
FPO Armed Forces	1	0.2
TOTAL* (44 states + D.C. + FPO)	433	99.4**
*Total reflects written responses only and does not include totals for scoping meeting comments. **Due to rounding, total does not equal 100.		

2.3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

Introduction

Public comments received during the scoping period address a variety of resources and resource uses, as well as management considerations. Each comment letter was reviewed and individual comments within each letter were analyzed and separated into issue categories. Public comments and management concerns were separated into approximately 22 different issues, some of which were further separated into sub-issues in those instances when the volume and type of public comment within one general issue warranted separate discussion. For example, OHV use is a sub-issue under Transportation Planning and Access.

A number of public comments regarding how in general the area should be managed without reference to a particular resource or other issue were received. For example, numerous comments expressed a preference that the area be managed as it is currently with no changes. These comments were not placed within any issue category unless the comment addressed a particular resource. A “no action alternative” will be addressed as part of the EIS.

Each of the 22 issues identified below in Table 3 will be carried forward and considered further in the development of alternatives. The 22 issues identified during scoping are discussed in this section, which is organized as follows:

- Issue Summary – A general summary of this issue as reflected in public comment.

- **BLM Management Concerns** – These concerns may not have been identified by the public during scoping, but will be considered as issues to be addressed through the RMP/EIS. Decisions which have been evaluated and determined valid will be carried forward.
- **Agency and Tribal Concerns** – Comments provided by tribes and other agencies specific to the particular issue.
- **Planning Criteria** – Planning criteria relevant to this issue to be used in the development of the RMP/EIS.
- **Issues Addressed Administratively** – This sub-section only appears when public comments were received concerning this issue category. These issues will not be addressed in the RMP/EIS process as the issue is either addressed through current management and/or is currently being addressed by the YFO independent of this planning effort.
- **Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction** – This sub-section only appears when public comments were received concerning this issue category. These issues will not be addressed in the RMP/EIS process as the issue is either beyond the scope of the current plans or outside the authority of BLM.

Table 3, starting on the next page, provides an index of public comments by issue category that will be addressed through the RMP/EIS process. Table 3 is intended to provide an easy reference to the comments that will be addressed through the RMP/EIS process, by issue category. Individual comments are not repeated in the issue discussions to follow, which contain instead a summary of overall comments. The “total received” column in Table 3 indicates how many times within public comment a particular issue was raised. This number does not correlate directly with either the total number of scoping responses or the total number of unique comments within those responses, as each comment often contained several different issues. For example, one comment stated “limit OHV use as it impacts the quiet of the desert and causes introduction and spread of exotic plants, erosion, wildlife harassment, and destruction of cultural sites.” This single comment contained five different issues including transportation planning and access (OHV sub-issue), vegetation management, soils, fish and wildlife, and cultural resources. A full listing of all comments and responses received during the scoping period can be found in the comment summary table in Appendix B.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
1	Riparian Areas, Floodplains, and Wetlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Management should provide more emphasis on protection of riparian and wetland habitat. ■ Limit motorized uses to areas that avoid riparian areas. ■ The lower Colorado River corridor provides valuable wetland and riparian habitat. 	4
2	Soil, Water, and Air Quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OHV use causes erosion. ■ Protect water resources from overuse. ■ Include standards by which uses will be modified to prevent damage to soils, range, wildlife, and watersheds during drought. ■ Examine water availability/use in all watersheds to determine how much water is going to various uses and how much is left intact. Determine this prior to decisions for specific actions to ensure enough water is available for wildlife. ■ Address how water resources will be protected and enhanced. Specify best management practices. ■ Consider closing roads to mitigate effects of disruption to natural sheet flow of water, which changes vegetation and results in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn. 	9
3	Vegetation Management		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OHV use causes the spread of exotic plants and disrupts forage and native vegetation. ■ Do not allow application of herbicides or other toxicants, which would cause ecological harm. Instead, address root causes of land disturbances and noxious weeds (i.e., grazing). ■ Consider closing roads to mitigate effects of disruption to natural sheet flow of water, which changes vegetation and results in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn. ■ Manage for more revegetation and controlled burns to control non-native species. ■ Use more controlled burns with revegetation of cottonwood and willow. ■ Area is important for native seed/plant resources and seed banking. ■ Determine desired future conditions for vegetation. ■ All land uses should limit growth of invasive plants. ■ Address how grazing impacts problem of invasive, nonnative vegetation. ■ Address problems droughts bring to vegetation management and establish protocols for livestock reduction during drought, including best management practices. ■ Consider rehabilitation after prescribed or wild fire, including special seed mix needs and noxious weed management. ■ Consumptive uses should be phased out. ■ Timber harvest/lumbering, developing natural resources is an important use of the land. ■ Maintaining species sustainability is BLM's responsibility regardless of district planning boundaries. 	25
4	Fish and Wildlife		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OHV use harasses wildlife and causes habitat fragmentation. ■ Birds and animals thrive near agriculture, which provides food and water in a harsh desert environment. ■ Add planning criteria that recognizes importance of predators in native ecosystems. 	77

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adopt strict policies against predator control and do not allow other agencies to lethally control predators. ■ Do not allow application of rodenticides or insecticides, as rodents play important roles and some wildlife depend on invertebrates for prey. ■ Preserve wildlife by building and maintaining water areas instead of closing access. ■ Continue efforts to enhance wildlife habitat. ■ Do not fence water holes, should be available to all animals including burros. ■ There should be no new guzzlers. ■ Address fragmentation of habitats from proposed development. ■ Address impacts to ground nesting birds from grazing. ■ Address impacts to birds and other wildlife from proposed wind towers. ■ Provide for wildlife corridors between YFO and PFO lands including Saddle Mountain, Woolsey Peak Wilderness, and Eagletails. ■ Scott's Lead Well off BLM 249 is often empty, and there are no other catchments for wildlife in the area. ■ Manage for maximum conservation and protection, and long-range goals to protect for future generations. ■ Maintaining species sustainability is BLM's responsibility regardless of district planning boundaries. 	
5	Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Sonoran pronghorn is being impacted by the proliferation of motorized routes. ■ There needs to be better protection for the flat-tailed horned lizard. ■ Consider Sonoran pronghorn for ACEC designation as it is threatened by livestock grazing, road construction, OHV use. ■ Designate Sonoran desert tortoise for ACEC as it is harmed by livestock grazing, OHV, other habitat destruction. ■ Analyze effects of roads on Sonoran pronghorn habitat. ■ Area maintains populations of desert bighorn sheep and other diminishing species, and the Eagletail Mountains WA is critical to the survivability of bighorns in other areas. ■ Address how future land uses will be managed so they don't contribute to the need for federal listing. 	36
6	Cultural and Paleontological Resources and Native American Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concern with the protection of the Blythe Giant Intaglios and other geoglyphs along the Colorado River. ■ Sears Point needs to be protected, potentially by fencing. ■ OHV use causes destruction to cultural sites. ■ Values historic evidence of man's ancient and modern use in the area including intaglios, homestead sites, Patton's army sites, old mines, historic trails. ■ Management should record and protect cultural sites by signing, employee visits, volunteer/site steward monitoring, potentially fencing. ■ Management should protect cultural sites but still allow public access to them. ■ BLM should provide to the public a map of cultural resources in approved areas and keep it updated. 	33

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Area has a special history for Native Americans. ■ Would like a stewardship program to help preserve cultural sites, potentially including fencing and limiting access. 	
7	Fire Management		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Roads created by OHV use increase risk of wildfire. ■ Manage for more revegetation and controlled burns to control non-native species. ■ Use more controlled burns with revegetation of cottonwood and willow. ■ Determine when and why prescribed burns will occur including a consideration for habitat, rehabilitation after prescribed or wild fire, special seed mix needs, and noxious weed management. ■ If fire is used, limit livestock use for two years. 	5
8	Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concerned about illegal dumping. 	4
9	Recreation	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BLM should continue to allocate areas for camping (with and without RVs). ■ Keep LTVAs open. ■ Visitors enjoy viewing wildlife and hunting birds drawn by agriculture production. ■ Horseback riding and ATV use should not be in the same category because ATVs cause more damage. ■ Horse activities should not be limited to roads and washes. Should be allowed to ride on existing trails. ■ Squaw Lake boat parking area needs to be enlarged to provide an overflow area for parking and provisions for larger boats and travelers. ■ BLM-approved vendors who provide water, dumping, and RV repairs, etc. should have another way of advertising besides posting on a small, crowded message board. ■ Provide recreational and cultural opportunities at least cost. ■ Manage for multiple use. ■ Keep an area of the dunes for hiking only. ■ Clean up Hippy Hole and then turn it into a recreational campground. 	116
		Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visitors should be educated about Native American culture, which would help prevent damage to cultural sites. ■ Public should be aware of public ownership of archaeological resources and what they are. ■ Provide educational opportunities so visitors can learn how to preserve and enjoy the land. ■ Staff with knowledgeable rangers who can teach people about the natural environment. ■ Land should be available for university to research native plants and cultural plants for treatment of diabetes. 	15
10	Visual Resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Desire to maintain open spaces. 	35
11	Land Tenure and	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do not want to lose usage for more development in such places as Wellton Hills #1 and #2 and Coyote 	53

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
	Use Authorizations		<p>Wash.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There should be no more disposals or exchanges. ■ Exchanges to benefit management should be explored. High wildlife values should be considered in exchanges. ■ Identify how the public will be involved in land transfers. ■ Disposals should be limited because they result in less protection to flora/fauna. They should only be considered for opportunities to consolidate federal lands or other land ownership patterns that facilitate management for flora/fauna. ■ Do not dispose or exchange lands that have Sonoran pronghorn or desert tortoise habitat. ■ Values land because they own a home and live on it. ■ Supports land exchange for Harvey's Fishing Hole. ■ Loss of agricultural leases can have a negative impact on local agricultural economy. ■ Agriculture on public land produces revenue for American people and reduces expenditure for other uses. ■ Agriculture is the best, most productive, and most judicious use of the land. ■ Agriculture is consistent with stated mission of BLM to sustain health, diversity, and productivity of public lands. ■ Agriculture meets FLPMA requirements that public lands be managed in a manner that recognizes nation's need for food and fiber from public lands. ■ Agriculture acts as a deterrent to illegal entry. If taken out of production it would revert to underbrush and salt cedars, complicating Border Patrol efforts to secure the area. ■ Limit future growth by maintaining natural surroundings and limiting development. ■ If public is denied use of land, then they aren't "public lands," they are really government-owned lands owned contrary to constitutional edict. ■ Land provides industrial expansion opportunities for landlocked towns. ■ Would like BLM land within Quartzsite town limits opened to development by the town. ■ Provide long-term leases to entities along the river like the Native Americans have been doing. ■ Some access is blocked by private holdings. 	
		Utility Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify future utility corridors. There should be no amendments for future corridors. ■ Existing corridors should be used instead of new ones. 	1
12	Mineral Resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mining is an important use for economic benefit. ■ Should be active oversight/control of mining. ■ Include alternatives with no new oil/gas leasing or only leasing that ensures resource health. ■ Include development of energy minerals and related issues, including the identification of future proposed mineral leasing areas and areas not suited. 	21

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Timber harvest/lumbering, developing natural resources is an important use of the land. ■ Consumptive uses should be phased out. ■ Need restoration of mining and toxins (pond areas). ■ Increase public allotment of gravel from 250 to 500 pounds. 	
13	Transportation Planning and Access	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How will BLM address route designations for areas with wilderness characteristics, ACECs, and other areas with special resources? ■ Opposed to further closure of public land through road closure or wilderness designation. ■ Due to access closures, it has become difficult for individuals to enjoy public lands. ■ Access should not be changed or further limited and roads, trails, and washes should remain open to vehicles. ■ Reopen historic routes and roads, which have been closed, to old mines or ranches. ■ There should be no new roads. ■ Need route designation to manage routes created by illegal immigrants and lack of designation. ■ There is no point in preserving area if people can't access it to enjoy it. ■ Open access to all areas designated as wilderness or monument. ■ Reopen inland route between Sears and Independence Points. ■ Reopen river route between Sears Point-Independence Point-Howard Well-Aztec I-8 interchange. ■ In Red Cloud Mine area, reopen road between Black Rock-Red Cloud Wash and Arasta Wash. ■ In California, reopen roads between Ogilby Road and State Hwy. 78 to the river. The recreational benefit of these roads was not assessed prior to their closure. ■ Plan routes for different modes of recreation (i.e., so trail bikes don't conflict with cars). ■ YFO should adopt a "closed unless posted open" OHV policy effective immediately and remaining during RMP revision. 	153
		OHV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The use of OHV is the best and sometimes only way to enjoy remote areas, especially for older or disabled people. ■ Limit 4WD and ATVs to only certain roads and washes, and the sand dunes because they damage the roads. ■ Complete OHV route designation process and have a mix of areas closed to OHV use and limited to designated roads and trails. ■ Identify OHV management policies and required signing and enforcement. ■ Due to sensitive ecosystems and soils, should be no open OHV areas within planning unit. ■ Limit OHV use as it impacts quiet, causes spread of exotic plants, erosion, wildlife harassment/fragmentation, destruction of cultural sites, disruption of foraging and native vegetation, increase in risk 	61

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of wildfire, impacts to Sonoran pronghorn and desert tortoise habitat. ■ Concerned with OHV tracks along existing roads because their wheel width doesn't conform to ruts made by standard vehicles. ■ All areas with wilderness characteristics should be managed under "closed" OHV designation. ■ It isn't the OHVs that destroy the desert, it's only a small percentage of the users. 	
14	Airspace		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Need to develop at least one landing strip along the lower Colorado River for pilots to land in proximity to recreation uses. BLM could also attract developers for small airport. ■ Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG) needs to be protected from air encroachment. Pilots fly illegally in YPG airspace and land on their property because there is no designated airstrip. 	3
15	Grazing Use		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grazing is an important use for economic benefit. ■ Because grazing has been administered by PFO, coordination with that office regarding any allotment changes is warranted. ■ Grazing impacts Sonoran pronghorn and Sonoran desert tortoise habitat. ■ Include full range of alternatives including no grazing, grazing at current use, and grazing reductions to ensure wildlife, watershed, vegetative, and soil health. ■ Eliminate domestic grazing. ■ Address impacts to ground nesting birds from grazing. ■ Address grazing allotment plans and residual forage standards, stocking rates, grazing intensity, duration, timing, class of livestock, strategies to reduce grazing, if necessary. ■ Establish protocols for livestock reduction during drought, including best management practices. ■ Reference all pertinent guidelines in grazing plans. ■ Address how grazing impacts problem of invasive, non-native vegetation. ■ Because grazing has been administered by PFO, coordination with that office regarding any allotment changes is warranted. 	19
16	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In identifying wilderness characteristics, consider how protecting or managing for these characteristics will help previously impacted areas be restored to natural condition. ■ Identify lands with wilderness character and protect them with special administrative designation and management and through a framework of multiple use conservation areas to preserve them. ■ Preserving wilderness characteristics is best economic choice as it is less costly than development, maintenance, restoration, law enforcement of OHV, or restoration. ■ Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) will be submitting proposals for lands containing wilderness characteristics for inclusion in EIS. ■ Use definition of wilderness as outlined in Wilderness Act of 1964 for inventorying areas for wilderness characteristics. 	71

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All areas with wilderness characteristics should be managed under “closed” OHV designation. ■ Consider following areas for wilderness characteristics: BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR WAs, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs. ■ Do not degrade wilderness characteristics in course of implementing any management action through the RMP without first analyzing possibility that they exist. ■ Managing for wilderness characteristics creates new wilderness without congressional approval and in violation of congressional intent. ■ Management of WSAs should ensure protection of their wilderness values from destructive activities such as oil/gas development, logging, OHV, mining, etc. ■ How will BLM work with the conservation community on implementing a monitoring and restoration plan? 	
17	Special Area Designations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How will BLM address route designations for areas with wilderness characteristics, ACECs, and other areas with special resources? ■ Find all potential WAs and designate accordingly. ■ Protect lands with wilderness character with special administrative designation and management and through a framework of multiple use conservation areas to preserve them. ■ Include assessment of additional ACECs in planning criteria to provide protection for sensitive plants/wildlife, including assessment of all state/federally listed species for ACEC designation. ■ Consider Sonoran pronghorn for ACEC designation as it is threatened by livestock grazing, road construction, OHV use. ■ Designate Sonoran desert tortoise for ACEC as it is harmed by livestock grazing, OHV, other habitat destruction. ■ Designation as wilderness would encourage a broader public attitude towards stewardship, usage, and interaction with land. ■ Designating WAs will only benefit the few who are fit enough to hike into remote areas. ■ Norton’s April 2003 settlement was unlawful and FLPMA gives BLM the authority to create Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). ■ Protection of wilderness quality lands can help fill mandates of FLPMA and provides a better balance of multiple uses as only 2.6 percent of BLM land is currently protected as wilderness. ■ Consider supplemental values such as Sonoran pronghorn habitat, cultural sites, T&E species, unique plant assemblages, prehistoric/historic travel corridors, water resources, potential scientific sites, education, and scenic beauty. ■ Designate the river corridor as a natural resource area, wildlife habitat, ACEC, etc. rather than general use/recreation area. 	65

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do not need further wilderness designation as there are numerous other WAs available for people to visit. ■ Open access to all areas designated as wilderness or monument. ■ Should be no wilderness management prescriptions outside of designated wilderness. ■ Protect current ACECs from land uses that conflict with their values (oil/gas, grazing, OHV). 	
18	Environmental Justice		No comments were received for this issue.	0
19	Socioeconomics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Without protecting local wilderness, local residents in the region could lose the income provided by ecotourism to the area. ■ Loss of agricultural leases can have a negative impact on local agricultural economy. ■ Agriculture on public land produces revenue for American people and reduces expenditure for other uses. ■ Analysis should include consideration of economic benefits to local and regional economy through wildlife-related recreation and ecosystems services. ■ Analysis should consider economic drain of livestock grazing on federal agency and taxpayer money including cost of damage caused by non-native organisms introduced by grazing or oil/gas development. ■ Preserving wilderness characteristics is best economic choice as it is less costly than development, maintenance, restoration, law enforcement of OHV or restoration. ■ User fees only hurt the poor, people shouldn't have to pay to use their own land. ■ Develop plan in coordination with AGFD to acknowledge economic value of wildlife species to local economies. 	12
20	Law Enforcement (including Public Safety)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Need more prosecution and fining of violators, such as for illegal dumping. ■ There should be more employees or rangers to stop illegal dumping, vandalism, and illegal entry. Additional rangers especially needed during the crowded months of January and February. ■ Use other people to police dump stations and trash so the rangers can do their jobs. ■ Provide list of rules on camping and ATV riding regionally in gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. to keep people on trails and make rules more accessible. ■ Use "do not litter" campaigns to help prevent illegal dumping. ■ Will BLM work with other law enforcement agencies to address border issues? 	29
21	Border Issues and Undocumented Immigrants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Migration across the border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources. ■ Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions on the border? ■ Immigrants are causing undesignated travel routes. ■ Agriculture acts as a deterrent to illegal entry. If taken out of production, it would revert to underbrush and salt cedars and complicate Border Patrol efforts to secure the area. 	29

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ISSUE CATEGORY				
Issue No.	Issue	Sub-Issue (where applicable)	Public Issue/Comment	Total Received
22	Wild Horses and Burros		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Management should include an emphasis on wild horse/burro control. ■ Water holes should be available to burros. ■ Remove all wild horses and burros. 	3

Note: Where comments apply to more than one issue category, the comment is repeated in the appropriate categories.

Issue 1: Riparian Areas, Floodplains, and Wetlands

Public Issue Summary

Few public comments were received on this issue. Those that were received pertained to the protection of riparian and wetlands in general and from motorized uses. Importance was also placed on the wetland and riparian habitat along the lower Colorado River corridor.

BLM Management Concerns

- Control invasive species in riparian zones and wetlands.
- Manage water quality and contaminants.
- Manage for wildlife habitat for neotropical migratory birds.
- Implement recovery plans in rivers and riparian areas while managing fuels, fires, and exotics.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Tribe indicated an interest in continuation of cottonwood and willow pole planting habitat improvement projects.

Planning Criteria

Riparian areas, floodplains, and wetlands will be managed to protect, maintain, or improve existing functions to benefit water storage, groundwater recharge, water quality, and fish and wildlife values in appropriate locations within fiscal constraints. All management practices will be designed in accordance with the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Colorado River Floodway Protection Act, and Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Proposed decisions will be measured against the Arizona Standard for Rangeland Health for riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands and priority wildlife management areas that provide for biodiversity and protection and restoration of native species. Additional criteria are the Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan (LCRMSCP), priority wildlife habitat management areas, existing activity plans, and the current Lower Colorado River Fire Management Plan.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Tribes want to continue being involved in cottonwood and willow pole planting habitat improvement projects.

Issue 2: Soil, Water, and Air Quality

Public Issue Summary

Public issues focused on the protection and availability of water resources. Overuse of water was mentioned, as was allocation of water to various uses and adequacy of water supply for wildlife. Concern over the impact of drought to soil and water resources was mentioned, as was the contribution of roads and OHV use to erosion problems.

BLM Management Concerns

- Consider the effect of public uses on air quality, particularly the use of dirt roads with regard to PM₁₀ non-attainment areas.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

No agency or tribal concerns were mentioned for this issue category.

Planning Criteria

Soil - Soils will be managed to protect long-term productivity. Best management practices will be incorporated into other programs to minimize soil erosion and compaction resulting from management actions.

Water Quality - Section 319 of the Clean Water Act obligates federal agencies to be consistent with State Nonpoint Source Management Program Plans and relevant water quality standards. Section 313 requires compliance with State Water Quality Standards. BLM will coordinate with the State of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regarding their Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and other relevant water quality programs. BLM will incorporate applicable best management practices or other conservation measures for specific programs and activities into the RMP. Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with state and federal standards.

Air Quality – Maintain and enhance air quality and visibility in a manner consistent with the Clean Air Act. Under the Clean Air Act, BLM administered lands were given a Class II air quality classification unless reclassified by the State. Wilderness areas must be classified as Class I or Class II. This classification allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. Proposed decisions within the influence zone of the planning project that may affect non-attainment areas, including the Maricopa and Yuma Counties particulate matter of 10 microns (PM₁₀) non-attainment areas, will be assessed for conformance with air quality standards.

Issue 3: Vegetation Management

Public Issue Summary

Many of the concerns expressed by public comment focused on the spread of exotic and non-native plants from a variety of land uses including OHV use, roads, and grazing. Comments also stated that the area is valuable for seed banking and resources. Other concerns focused on the application of herbicides, and various impacts from grazing, drought, and fire management.

BLM Management Concerns

- Establish guidelines for project level work to be completed in accordance with the Arizona Native Plant Law.
- Determine if vegetative products within the 2-5 inch of precipitation zone are suitable for public use or sale (e.g., firewood, cactus skeletons, native wood/plants).
- Determine if there should be campfire restrictions for the protection of native vegetation.
- Determine decision criteria for revegetation and availability of irrigation water for revegetation.
- Continue to identify, map, and treat invasive species, including noxious weeds, as a management priority within the planning area.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Continue giant salvinia removal along the Colorado River.

Planning Criteria

Vegetation will be managed to achieve desired plant communities (considering the ecological site potential) that provide for biodiversity; protection and restoration of native species; and non-consumptive uses including plant protection (fuel collection), visual quality, and watershed protection. FLPMA requires that public lands be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The desired plant communities will provide critical wildlife habitat, as well as forage for livestock and wildlife. Plant maintenance, watershed protection and stability, and wildlife habitat needs will be provided for. Forage will be allocated to support wildlife at population levels determined through consultation with the AGFD. Forage on suitable rangeland will be allocated for domestic livestock grazing based on Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and may include provisions for hazardous fuels reduction and habitat restoration.

There are several treatment methods and Standard Operating Procedures that would be used in a vegetation treatment program. BLM policies and guidance for public land treatments would be followed in implementing all treatment methods. Many guidelines are provided in manual

Section 1740, BLM Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Programmatic documents such as BLM's *Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States* (May 1991), and other general and specific program policy, procedures, and standards pertinent to implementation of renewable resource improvements.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Add planning criterion that requires all alternatives be biologically and ecologically sustainable and meets the needs of native plants/wildlife.

Issue 4: Fish and Wildlife

Public Issue Summary

Fish and wildlife issues included impacts and habitat fragmentation from OHV use and development. Impacts to wildlife, specifically ground nesting birds and forage, from grazing was also mentioned. Several comments were received regarding water catchments, including the desire that these be managed by BLM, concern that there are not enough catchments, and concern that some catchments are sometimes empty and others are fenced, making them unavailable for use by all wildlife. A few comments emphasized the benefit of agriculture to wildlife for food resources, and one comment expressed concern over policies to control predators and rodents. There were also requests to provide wildlife corridors between this planning area and adjacent areas.

BLM Management Concerns

- Identify what indicators or limits of acceptable change will be used to determine when wildlife populations are being impacted to an unacceptable degree.
- Integrate habitat management with other resource programs to minimize impacts on wildlife species and their habitats while still providing for other uses on the public lands.
- Evaluate the use of wildlife water catchments.
- Determine what types of management actions are appropriate in priority and general wildlife habitats.
- Identify appropriate mitigation measures for impacts to priority wildlife habitats.
- Incorporate State and Bureau strategic plans for fish and wildlife into the RMP.
- Assess potential need and proper location for artificial fish habitat.
- Protect backwater habitat.
- Promote native fish habitat populations.
- Assess the need to limit or close public access to promote spawning or critical fish habitat.

- Address best management practices for aquatic non-native invasive species removal within fish habitat.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Continue managing for wildlife values.
- There should be more proactive wildlife management.
- AGFD would like to develop, review, and coordinate on RMP with BLM.
- Activities of the AGFD to maintain and enhance wildlife resources and related recreation should be considered necessary, authorized, and administrative activities in any land use allocation.
- AGFD supports a balanced approach in management to provide both conservation and recreational use opportunities.

Planning Criteria

Fish and wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain and/or improve the existing habitats including priority wildlife habitat. Management actions should minimize the extent of disturbance to fish and wildlife habitat. Vegetation management practices would be considered to achieve desired future conditions. In addition, management actions will incorporate existing BLM national strategic plans, such as Fish and Wildlife 2000 and others.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Add planning criterion that requires all alternatives be biologically and ecologically sustainable and meets the needs of native plants/wildlife.
- Management should include close coordination with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), AGFD.
- Ensure the RMP includes recognition of the Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP) and BLM is a member of that planning process.
- BLM should manage the land and AGFD should manage the wildlife including hunting.
- Cooperative habitat improvements projects should continue between BLM and AGFD.

Issues Not Within of BLM Jurisdiction

- BLM should take over management of the water catchments.

Issue 5: Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species

Public Issue Summary

Comments received for this issue focused on the Sonoran pronghorn, Sonoran desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, and flat-tailed horned lizard. Impacts from OHV use, roads, and grazing was mentioned. It was requested that the Sonoran pronghorn and desert tortoise habitat be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). General comments stated that the area should be managed to prevent future federal listings of species and include rigorous monitoring of sensitive species.

BLM Management Concerns

- Identify the types of projects that are appropriate within special status species habitat.
- Identify the types of mitigation that should be considered for special status species protection.
- Determine if designation of potential, suitable, and occupied Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat is necessary to protect species.
- Implement and incorporate recovery plans and conservation agreements and their goals, objectives, and actions, as applicable, into the RMP.
- Implement recovery and conservation plans for special status species through management practices.
- Actions, allocations, special designations, and prescriptions will be utilized as needed to protect designated T&E species critical habitat.
- Consider impacts to razorback sucker critical habitat.
- Explore reintroduction of Gila topminnow, desert pupfish, razorback sucker, and bonytail chub.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Continue T&E species management.

Planning Criteria

Laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines followed for special status species management will include, but are not limited to, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, BLM Manual 6840, Desert Bighorn Sheep Range Wide Plan and Sonoran Desert Tortoise Range Wide Plan, Endangered Species Act, Executive Order 13112, FLPMA, NEPA, Public Rangelands Improvements Act, Sikes Act, and the Taylor Grazing Act.

Management actions authorized, funded or implemented by BLM will be done so as not to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal

species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Candidate species, species proposed for federal listing, and BLM and State sensitive species will be given the same consideration as listed species. The intent is to recover listed species and maintain healthy populations of all other species and therefore avoid the need for further listing of any species as threatened or endangered.

In addition, BLM adheres to BLM's Manual 6840, which outlines the conservation management procedures of threatened and endangered species and the habitat on which they depend; ensures that all actions that BLM authorizes, funds, or implements comply with the Endangered Species Act; requires cooperation with the USFWS in the planning and recovery of threatened and endangered species; states the BLM policy for managing special status candidate species. BLM also will follow terms and conditions implemented by Biological Opinions and Conservation Agreements when making special status species management decisions.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Add planning criterion that requires all alternatives to meet ESA and other protection statutes and include rigorous monitoring of sensitive species.
- Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions on the border?

Issue 6: Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Native American Concerns

Public Issue Summary

The cultural value, importance, and interest of the area were frequently mentioned in public comments. Cultural features specifically mentioned include the intaglios, geoglyphs, old homestead sites, old mines, Patton's army sites, Sears Point, and historic trails. These features were discussed in the context of general importance as well as being interesting recreation destinations. Many comments mentioned protection of cultural features, but some comments suggested measures such as fencing cultural sites while others expressed a desire for protection without closing public access. OHV use was specifically mentioned as impacting cultural sites. Volunteers and site stewards were also suggested as protection measures.

BLM Management Concerns

- Establish measures needed to protect cultural resources from vandalism, OHV damage, other uses, and natural deterioration.
- Identify trade/exchange lands that BLM will attempt to acquire in order to protect significant cultural resources.
- Identify and evaluate areas containing or likely to contain vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils.

- Determine sensitivity of paleontological resources prior to authorizing surface disturbing activities.
- Develop management recommendations to promote the scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils.
- Identify and mitigate threats to paleontological resources, as appropriate.
- Establish link between former RMP and current RMP for proper name to reference Sears Point/Gila River Cultural ACEC.
- Determine how to effectively manage increasing cultural heritage tourism while protecting cultural resources.
- Consider decisions that will protect areas with traditional cultural significance to Native American Tribes.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Establish a host site at Sears Point (Gila River Cultural ACEC) for cultural resource protection.
- Continue protection of historic and cultural sites.

Planning Criteria

Cultural and paleontological resources will be managed to maintain or enhance significant scientific, educational, and recreational values. Cultural sites that meet National Register criteria will be protected and nominated for inclusion on the Register.

Issue 7: Fire Management

Public Issue Summary

There were few public comments received regarding this issue. Comments focused primarily on how and where prescriptive burns would be used, and how the area would be revegetated including special seed mixes and noxious weed control. Concern was expressed that roads increase the risk of wildfire and that livestock should not be allowed in a burn area for two years following a fire.

BLM Management Concerns

Management concerns will be identified during the Management Situation Analysis phase.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Several agencies indicated an interest in future projects related to hazardous fuel reduction and wildfire suppression.
- Support continuation of programs for hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire suppression and prevention, and removal of salt cedar.

Planning Criteria

Fire management prescriptions will be consistent with the Federal Wildland Fire Policy, National Fire Plan, and the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management. Fire suppression will be accomplished with the least amount of surface disturbance and to protect significant cultural or paleontological values. Public lands and resources affected by fire will be rehabilitated in accordance with the multiple use objectives identified for the affected area, subject to BLM policies and available funding.

Issue 8: Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste

Public Issue Summary

Public comments received on this issue related to trash and RV septic waste. One issue involved RVs unloading their septic tanks on the land. Other comments were received regarding the need to clean up and better maintain the confluence and problems with illegal dumping. All of these issues can be addressed through current management.

BLM Management Concerns

- Consider risk to visitors and general public from unlocated unexploded ordnances on public lands administered by YFO.
- Work with adjacent military installations to consider what management actions are needed to protect public safety.
- Identify and consider safety issues at historic mine sites, which are often popular visitor destinations.
- Consider appropriate management of sites and areas that pose a threat to public health and safety, whether man-made or natural.
- Address abandoned mine lands and emptying of septic tanks on BLM land.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Control illegal dumping and hazardous materials.

Planning Criteria

Management actions will consider best management practices, which protect the public to the greatest extent through existing policies. Laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines followed for hazardous materials will include, but not be limited to FLPMA, NEPA, and the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act of 1986.

The plan will develop a framework to address hazardous sites and activities, incorporating requirements to meet the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental laws and regulations, as well as consider other potential hazards.

The YFO will seek out developing a Memorandum of Understanding with USMC Air Station at Yuma and U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds to address safe disposal of any unexploded ordnance discovered on public lands.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- RVs dump their tanks on the land creating a biohazard and fly infestation.
- There is a problem with illegal dumping at 29E where the old dairy was.
- The confluence needs to be cleaned up and maintained in a safe fashion.

Issue 9: Recreation

Public Issue Summary

Due to the nature of the questions provided by BLM on the comment card and comment form, many people relayed what they felt the most important recreation activities were on BLM land. These recreation uses include hunting, OHV and other motorized use, camping, rock hunting/collecting, fishing, photography, hiking, wildlife viewing, scientific research (geologic research, in particular, was mentioned), shooting, and many other uses. Comments were received indicating the need to maintain a multiple use management approach.

Other recreation comments were received regarding the need to maintain camping areas, including the LTVAs. Several comments were received on horse riding trails and the belief that horse riders should not be limited in the trails they can ride, a preference both for and against shooting in the area, and requests for trails designated for certain uses. Squaw Lake boat ramp and Hippy Hole were specifically mentioned for improvements or additional amenities. Comments also stated that there should be no fees for the use of public land.

Education was also mentioned in comments. People felt that access to the area and its wildlife and habitat provided important educational opportunities for themselves and future generations. Comments also emphasized the importance of educating visitors about the area to encourage stewardship and appreciation of the land. Several comments were received about the scientific

research and learning opportunities offered by the area, particularly for seed resources and geology.

BLM Management Concerns

- Identify and allocate sites to scientific, recreational, educational, and traditional uses.
- Identify sites for development of interpretive uses.
- Evaluate the recreational potential at Gilmore's and Walter's camps.
- Review new special recreation permits and concession leases and vendor permits for feasibility and consistency with existing land use plans.
- BLM management plan will consider establishing designated routes for a wide variety of recreational use (e.g., hiking, biking, equestrian, and OHV).
- Determine if there should be campfire restrictions.
- Identify methods for joint management and funding for recreational resources and maintenance of existing programs.
- Shortfalls in funding may jeopardize ability to develop and manage new and existing recreation resources.
- Examine management opportunities utilizing BLM recreational strategy.
- Examine ways to minimize potential conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users.
- Consider management of commercial recreational uses, special recreation permits, and other organized events.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Concerns were expressed regarding changes in recreational sites location and status with regard to state highway access and improvement and proximity to national wildlife refuges.

Planning Criteria

Laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines followed for recreation management will include, but not be limited to, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Land and Water Conservation Fund, 43 CFR 8300, BLM Recreation Management regulations, 43 CFR 2930, BLM Special Recreation Permits regulations, BLM Manual 8300 – Recreation Management, and the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

The RMP/EIS will set forth a framework for managing recreational and commercial activities in order to maintain existing natural landscapes and to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public. The lifestyles of area residents, including activities of grazing, hunting, and motorized use and recreation, will be considered in the plan.

Existing designated recreation sites would be carried forward and evaluated for additional facilities. Other public lands would also be evaluated for their suitability for recreational development.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Permits for horse rides should be issued at least two weeks before a ride instead of at the last minute.
- There should be no fees for use of public land.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- Minimize use by gun enthusiasts.
- Hunters disrupt quiet of area.
- Lands should remain open to all legal shooting in Arizona including use of legally owned Class III weapons.

Issue 10: Visual Resources

Public Issue Summary

Comments regarding visual resources specifically were very limited. However, numerous comments expressed an appreciation and value for the open spaces and scenery of the area, and the desire that the open spaces and beauty of the area be maintained for the enjoyment of both current and future generations.

BLM Management Concerns

- VRM classification needs to be re-evaluated for the entire field office with emphasis on special designation areas.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Consider closing areas to camping near National Wildlife Refuge to reduce visual impact.

Planning Criteria

Visual Resource Management classification will be conducted to address the public's concerns about open space and natural vistas. Some areas may be subject to special measures to protect resources or reduce conflicts among uses.

Issue 11: Land Tenure and Use Authorizations

Public Issue Summary

Numerous comments were received regarding land tenure and use authorizations and generally covered one of three categories: (1) general policy regarding disposal or exchange, (2) support for disposal, exchange, or lease of specific areas, and (3) agricultural use. Many comments expressed concern over further disposals or exchanges, requesting no further or only limited disposals or exchanges. Some comments stated that wildlife and habitat be considered during potential land exchanges. Specific areas mentioned for disposal/exchange or lease include Harvey's Fishing Hole, Martinez Lake, area along the Colorado River, and BLM land within Quartzsite town limits. Several comments were received supporting agricultural use in the area for a variety of reasons and expressing concern over potential termination of agricultural leases.

One response discussed utility corridors and expressed a need for future utility corridors to be identified in the plan, but that there should be no amendments for future corridors. The comment also stated that existing corridors should be used instead of new ones.

BLM Management Concerns

- Determine if existing and proposed corridors are consistent with the Western Utility Group Corridor Study.
- Determine if the YFO corridors align/coordinate with adjacent BLM field office corridors, and if corridors do not align, develop mitigation recommendations.
- Identify BLM's role in educating the public about major utility corridors.
- Determine presence or absence of Desert Land Entries in YFO, including Indian allotments.
- Assess lands for disposal, acquisition, and/or exchange to benefit or promote T&E and/or cultural resources.
- Evaluate appropriate locations for R&PP leases based on community and local needs.
- Identify need for establishing additional communication sites.
- Review all land classification/withdrawals within YFO.
- Identify any and all trespass on public lands for management action. Determine how trespass will be addressed.
- Coordinate with minerals assessment to ensure any and all split estate issues are resolved.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Review all agricultural lease stipulations in order to consider selection of crop types for law enforcement and public safety.
- Review requests for potential expansion of existing military installations. Evaluate in-holdings within YPG and BMGR
- Evaluate all land tenure adjustments, including those adjacent to wildlife refuges and military installations.
- Consider land use authorizations to support future military training exercises.
- Evaluate compatibility and location of proposed wind farms with military air traffic.
- Consider needs for military communication sites.
- Concerns were expressed regarding Gila River Confluence ownership and coordination with multiple agencies.

Planning Criteria

Realty/Land Tenure – Conditions will be identified that warrant the removal or withdrawal of certain public lands from multiple use, such as for public safety or protection of special uses and resources. Withdrawals designate public lands for a particular project, purpose or use. Normally, the land is closed to entry under all or some of the public land laws including the mining law. Criteria for identifying lands available or not available for land entry, including under the Desert Land Entry Act, will be developed. There will be no net loss of lands or interests in lands along the Colorado River. YFO will follow recommendations of Communication Site Management Plans, National Wind EIS, and BLM Instructional Memoranda.

Land Use Authorizations – Public lands will generally be available for concessions, leases, and rights-of-way including but not limited to transportation and utility corridors, subject to NEPA evaluation, except where specifically prohibited by law or regulation or in areas specifically identified for avoidance or exclusion to protect significant resource values. Land use authorizations are to avoid areas of special management areas and designations such as priority wildlife habitat, special status species management areas, ACECs, wilderness, and cultural areas.

Renewable Energy Sites — New renewable energy sites, including wind, biomass, and solar energy, will be considered based on established criteria, procedures, and policy, in association with industry demand and resource protection objectives. New locations for renewable energy sites will also consider environmental quality, economic efficiency, security, safety, and good engineering and technological practices. Decisions will consider preferred locations and exclusion areas to protect significant resource values.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Pratt agricultural lease is valuable part of hybrid seed program and is one of few locations in Southwest that can produce Tropical Cauliflower.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- More land should be opened along Martinez Lake for boat ramps, long-term home leases, camping, and concessionaires.

Issue 12: Mineral Resources

Public Issue Summary

Comments received on this issue either supported or opposed mining and resource development. Issues included statements that mining and development of natural resources are economically important. Others comments stated that there should be more oversight of mining, some alternatives should include no new oil/gas leases, there needs to be restoration of mining and related toxins, and all consumptive uses should be phased out.

BLM Management Concerns

- Determine mineral potential and evaluate areas to consider for mineral withdrawal.
- Determine if currently withdrawn areas should be opened to mineral entry.
- Identify areas of low, medium, and high potential for oil and gas development.
- Determine areas that should be closed to oil and gas leasing due to resource compatibility and sensitivity.
- Develop reasonable foreseeable development scenario for oil, gas, mineral material sales, and mining law as needed to support community infrastructure and growth.
- Follow directives within the Energy, Policy and Conservation Act (2000).
- Evaluate socioeconomic impacts of sand and gravel material sales and statewide need for sand and gravel material sales within YFO. Promote competitive sand and gravel award process.
- BLM will utilize other management methods to avoid surface management.
- Coordinate with minerals assessment to ensure any and all split estate issues are resolved. Ensure that sub-surface jurisdictional issues surrounding split estate parcels are addressed.
- Formulate management strategy for trespass violations.
- Mining claim use and occupancy authorizations should be considered as directed by 43 CFR 3715.
- Determine policy for management of split estate lands, particularly where BLM manages the surface but the sub-surface is in non-federal ownership.
- Consider general requirements for protecting resource values of the public lands, including stipulations and construction and/or operating standards to apply to surface disturbing activities.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Evaluate mineral material sales, which support state highway improvement projects. Mineral resources provide important benefits to society and the economy. Ensure adequate mineral assessment and economic evaluation.

Planning Criteria

Minerals management will be consistent with the General Mining Law of 1872 (as amended), FLPMA, Mining and Minerals Policy Act, National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act, and current BLM mineral resources policy. Lands open to salable, leasable, and locatable minerals will be identified in the plan. Areas within the planning area may also be subject to constraints to surface use.

Issue 13: Transportation Planning and Access

Public Issue Summary

Many public comments were received regarding transportation planning and access. A frequently stated issue was access with many users preferring no further restrictions through road closures or wilderness designation. Another issue was the request for currently closed roads to be reopened. Other issues include a desire for route designation to manage routes created by lack of designation and illegal immigrants, the belief that public land should be publicly accessible, and the hope that current access will remain for future generations to enjoy the land. Other comments requested that there be no new roads established.

Issues with OHV use include damage to natural resources, wildlife, cultural resources, and existing roads; lack of designation; lack of signing and enforcement; and the need to limit OHV to certain or designated areas. OHV supporters feel that OHV is the only way to enjoy remote areas, especially for older or disabled users.

BLM Management Concerns

- A route signing policy needs to be established.
- Determine management actions needed for new routes, including but not limited to use specifications, signing, vegetation management, and routine maintenance.
- Determine if YFO designated routes align and coordinate with adjacent BLM field offices and other adjacent jurisdictions.
- Identify BLM's role in educating the public about and managing designated route systems.
- Determine what level of maintenance should be provided on roads to maintain access and to protect both public safety and natural and cultural resources.

- Address access, easements, or rights-of-way across private lands in order to secure access to public lands.
- Consider providing additional motorized access for those who are unable to walk long distances.
- Consider how types of vehicle uses, including competitive events, races, and challenge courses should be managed.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Coordinate proposed location of recreational hiking trails on or around Telegraph Pass.
- Consider proper placement of OHV designated routes near national wildlife refuges.
- Resolve illegal use and entry of OHV from BLM routes to national wildlife refuge.
- AGFD recognizes need to assess travel routes in key areas due to impacts to wildlife by OHV use and habitat fragmentation by roadways.
- AGFD wants to be involved during route planning/designating process to identify important areas for fish and wildlife resources and ensure appropriate access for wildlife-related recreation.
- Incorporate transportation needs into planning process.
- Would like to see land remain open to public use without extensive restrictions.

Planning Criteria

BLM will manage motorized and other access on the public lands in accordance with existing law, executive orders, regulation, and policy. Road and trail access guidance will be incorporated into every RMP to ensure public and resource needs are met. The YFO will designate OHV use areas as open, closed, or limited use. A network of roads and trails will be designated for all limited areas. BLM will utilize route evaluation tree as adopted by the Arizona State Office. This process will require an interdisciplinary approach as it affects several key resources. BLM will strive to coordinate route designations with surrounding jurisdictions and neighboring field offices.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- In KOFA, reopen Slumgullion Pass and road from Queen Canyon to Willbanks Road.
- Remove or unlock gate between Imperial and Cibola NWR.

Issue 14: Airspace

Public Issue Summary

Airspace issues included the need for a landing strip along the lower Colorado River for private pilot access to recreational uses, the concern for illegal plane landing on the YPG, and the need to close the dirt road northeast of Martinez Lake because it is being used as a landing strip and is unsafe for such use.

BLM Management Concerns

- Consider appropriate management of resources and uses relative to overflights, as commercial and private overflights are a growing use of public lands.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Want continuous access to military training routes (airspace).

Planning Criteria

The 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act, which established the existing wilderness areas in the YFO, provided that these wilderness designations were not to interfere with the continuing use of existing military training areas, modification of those military training areas, or the development of new low-level routes needed to support military training missions.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- Dirt road northeast of Martinez Lake is used as landing strip and should be closed due to safety concerns (not maintained, too close to Cibola Range, no security, obstructions in violation of FAA rules).
- YPG needs to be protected from air encroachment. Pilots fly illegally in YPG airspace and land on their property because there is no designated airstrip.

Issue 15: Grazing Use

Public Issue Summary

Grazing issues raised included the statements that grazing provides an important economic benefit, and the need to coordinate grazing allotments with BLM Phoenix Field Office. Other comments were received on the impacts of grazing to Sonoran pronghorn, desert tortoise,

watershed, vegetation, invasive vegetation, soil, and during drought. It was requested that grazing allotment plans be very specific in terms of standards, stocking rates, and other standards including strategies to reduce grazing if necessary.

BLM Management Concerns

- Evaluate whether and where certain lands are available for grazing.
- Consider closing ephemeral allotments that have not been grazed in 10-15 years.
- Unauthorized grazing use is a problem.
- Evaluate existing and potential range improvements, including maintenance, to determine if they are compatible with land management goals.
- Re-evaluate the grazing classification for perennial and ephemeral (i.e., seasonal) allotments.
- Consider the application of the ephemeral rule to grazing on public lands.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Open range areas and cattle guards are within close proximity to state highways.
- Grazing allotments are located near national wildlife refuges. Trespass livestock is a concern.

Planning Criteria

BLM will manage grazing through existing laws, regulations, and policies including the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. BLM will provide for livestock management in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with resource management objectives, including achieving desired plant communities, and land use conditions. Proposed decisions will determine if allotments are open or closed to grazing in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act and, if open, in what manner. Decisions will include a strategy for ensuring that proper grazing practices are followed while preserving habitats for sensitive plant and wildlife species. Appropriate best management practices will be followed to protect rangeland resources and, where necessary, to mitigate any conflicts with other uses and values. Administrative actions to assure compliance with existing permit/lease requirements, to modify permits and leases, to monitor and supervise grazing use, and to remedy unauthorized grazing use will continue.

Issue 16: Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Public Issue Summary

The identification of lands with wilderness characteristics was a frequently mentioned issue. Some commenters want lands with wilderness characteristics identified and protected and closed to OHV use. Specifically mentioned areas for identification include BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR WAs, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs. Another public issue was the opposition to managing for wilderness characteristics, and the statement that managing for wilderness characteristics essentially creates new wilderness in violation of congressional intent.

BLM Management Concerns

- Consider wilderness characteristics when making land and resource allocations.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

No agency or tribal concerns were identified for this issue.

Planning Criteria

Consistent with BLM policy, the Secretary of the Interior letter to Senator Robert Bennett (dated April 11, 2003), and the settlement in the case of Utah v. Norton (dated April 14, 2003), BLM has the authority to discuss and incorporate wilderness values into the land use plan, in accordance with the public process incorporated in all land use planning efforts. Thus, BLM is committed to listening to public input through the land use planning process and, where appropriate, managing specified areas of land for wilderness values. However, BLM has no authority to establish new Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) or to report such areas to Congress. BLM can protect areas in their natural state using a wide range of land use tools other than the WSA designation process. The BLM will review, through this planning process, lands within the planning area that may possess remote or primitive characteristics.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- Norton's April 2003 settlement was unlawful and FLPMA gives BLM the authority to create WSAs.

Issue 17: Special Area Designations (including existing Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Trails, National Historic Trails, Back Country Byways, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern)

Public Issue Summary

Issues focused on the need to identify and protect new and existing special areas in general and from activities including oil/gas development, logging, mining, OHV, grazing, and road construction. ACEC designation was requested for Sonoran pronghorn and desert tortoise habitat. It was also requested that the river corridor be designated as a natural resource area rather than general use.

Comments were also received in opposition to special area designations stating these designations benefit only those few who are fit enough to hike into them to enjoy them, there should be no further designations as there are numerous other WAs available in the area, and all currently designated areas should be opened for access.

BLM Management Concerns

- Identify partners for National Recreation Trails and National Historic Trails.
- Evaluate potential for designating additional National Recreation Trails, National Historic Trails, state recreation trails, and Back Country Byways.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Concern that additional restrictive management or allocations will hinder AGFD ability to propose/implement wildlife management activities.
- The RMP must be clear when describing management allocations.
- AGFD supports designating key habitats as long as future conditions acknowledge wildlife as a management priority and prescriptions allow for both wildlife management and reasonable public access.
- Prefer to not have additional closures or withdrawals on public lands.

Planning Criteria

Wilderness Areas – Wilderness areas are designated by Congress and are managed according to the *Wilderness Act of 1964*, the *Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990*, regulations for wilderness management at 43 CFR 6300, BLM Manuals 8560 and 8561, BLM Handbook H-8560-1, interim operations plans currently in effect for range, wildlife, and fire management in wilderness, and Wilderness Management Plans. The land use plan will not address reducing or eliminating existing WAs, changing existing wilderness boundaries, proposing new WAs, or

allowing motor vehicle or other use of mechanical transportation in any wilderness area not already authorized.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) – ACECs will be designated where special management attention is required to protect historical, cultural, or scenic values, natural resources or processes, or human life and safety. Management requirements for ACECs will be identified in the plan. YFO is looking at select areas to consider for new designation (i.e., Dripping Springs and Colorado River Limitrophe), as well as expanding the existing Sears Point. ACECs should not be used as a substitute for wilderness designation when an area otherwise meets the criteria for wilderness.

Issue 18: Environmental Justice

Public Issue Summary

There were no comments received regarding environmental justice.

BLM Management Concerns

Management concerns will be identified during the Management Situation Analysis phase.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

No agency or tribal concerns were identified for this issue.

Planning Criteria

The lifestyles of area residents will be considered in the plans for low income and minority populations.

Issue 19: Socioeconomics

Public Issue Summary

Many of the comments regarding socioeconomics focused on the issue of potential income or loss of income from various uses. This includes income from agricultural leases to the local agricultural economy and BLM (through lease) and economic benefits of ecotourism and the potential income loss if wilderness is not protected. Other issues included the economic drain of grazing and the economic benefit of managing for wilderness characteristics rather than the more costly development, maintenance, restoration, and law enforcement required by OHV use. One

comment pertained to the inability of some lower-income users to pay user fees, and that user fees impact the lower income users more than other users.

BLM Management Concerns

Management concerns will be identified during the Management Situation Analysis phase.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Identify socioeconomic conditions for the local community related to the adjacent Imperial Sand Dunes.

Planning Criteria

Management actions will be evaluated for socioeconomic impacts by using the “Economic Profile System” and other tools such as IMPLAN.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- Area should be managed through a central office with local representatives. People of La Paz County have no way to communicate with BLM individual in person.

Issue 20: Law Enforcement (including Public Safety)

Public Issue Summary

Law enforcement issues primarily focused on the need for more staff to better monitor the area, including dumping and trash stations, and stronger prosecution and fining of violators for activities such as illegal dumping, vandalism, illegal entry, and hunters taking game over the legal limit.

BLM Management Concerns

- Determine which uses are incompatible due to public safety issues. Target shooting, for example, is a legitimate public lands use but may place nonparticipants at risk, particularly in areas of heavy use.
- Consider the increasing concern regarding undocumented immigrant traffic and smuggling activities on the public lands relative to public and employee safety.

- Determine what level of maintenance should be provided on roads to maintain access and to protect both public safety and natural and cultural resources.
- Consider the effects of hazardous sites, including those created by illegal dumping, on public health and safety.
- Consider outreach programs that provide visitor information including public safety, resource protection, and appropriate uses.
- When developing resource management objectives, consider the need of an enforcement aspect, including developing appropriate penalties.
- Determine what level of maintenance should be provided on roads to maintain access and to protect both public safety and natural and cultural resources.

Agency Concerns

- Address illegal dumping on public lands through proper coordination with local law enforcement.

Planning Criteria

There are no resource-specific planning criteria identified for Law Enforcement.

Issues Addressed Administratively

- The confluence needs to be cleaned up and maintained in a safe fashion.

Issues Not Within BLM Jurisdiction

- Some private land holders allow hunters to kill over their quota, hunters should be checked on.

Issue 21: Border Issues and Undocumented Immigrants

Public Issue Summary

There were a few comments received regarding border issues. Some issues focused on the impact of illegal immigration to natural resources and the creation of undesignated travel routes. Coordination between BLM and other agencies to address all environmental impacts of border control was also an issue. One comment stated that agricultural use aids in border control, allowing easier security of the area that would revert to underbrush, if not under agricultural production.

BLM Management Concerns

- Identify land use plan decisions that need to be made regarding international boundary issues and law enforcement.
- Collaborate with other agencies to address the impacts on resources caused by undocumented immigrants and drug smugglers.
- Develop strategies to encourage undocumented immigrants to remain on existing roads, to not litter, and to protect and respect natural resources.
- Undocumented immigrants and drug smugglers often drive vehicles off of roads, leave behind trash, and burn campfires. This has resulted in management concerns including resource damage (to soils, vegetation, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, etc.), unsanitary human waste disposal, costly clean-up of trash, and the potential for wildfire.
- Safety is another significant management concern. Undocumented immigrants are frequently ill-prepared for the harsh environmental and climatic conditions they encounter, particularly in the summer. This can result in the need for search and rescue operations. Recently, the illegal activities also have resulted in an increased concern for employee and visitor safety as drug smugglers and guides (also known as coyotes) leading the undocumented immigrants have been carrying and sometimes using lethal weapons.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- Distribution and species of vegetation to promote visibility of undocumented immigrants
- International border issues related to local law enforcement coordination

Planning Criteria

There is no resource specific planning criteria identified for Border Issues and Undocumented Immigrants.

Issue 22: Wild Horses and Burros

Public Issue Summary

Few comments were received on this issue. Some stated that all wild horses and burros should be removed, while others emphasized more control of these animals. One comment stated that water holes for wildlife should also be available to burros.

BLM Management Concerns

- Complete or incorporate Imperial-Trigo Cooperative Management Plan.

- Manage for appropriate levels of utilization of key species.
- Review herd management designations east of State Highway 95.

Agency and Tribal Concerns

- There are wild horses and burros located on the national wildlife refuges.

Planning Criteria

Management of horse and burros would follow the Wild, Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act (1970), as amended by FLPMA (1976) and Public Rangelands Improvement Act (1978). Horses and burros within California would be managed in accordance with the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (2002). Management of wild horses and burros within the Cibola-Trigo HMA would be in accordance with the Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) (1980). The HMAP would be revised to include multi-agency monitoring protocol, utilization levels, and HMA boundary as agreed to by Imperial-Trigo Planning Team. The NWRs are not within the HMA, however, wild horse and burros use is allowed at minimal levels. Monitoring data will be used to determine Appropriate Management Levels and guide removals to ensure limits set by the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are maintained.

2.4 ANTICIPATED DECISIONS TO BE MADE

BLM is responsible for multiple-use management of public land and its resources based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, in accordance with the FLPMA. Management direction resulting from the planning process for the RMP needs to be adaptable to changing conditions and demands over the life of the RMP. RMPs provide management direction and help to determine decisions regarding appropriate multiple uses and allocation of resources, develop strategies to manage and protect resources, and establish systems to monitor and evaluate the status of resources and effectiveness of these management practices. As part of an analysis of the management situation, BLM will review the existing condition of the environment, existing management situation, and identify which existing management decisions should be carried forward and where there are opportunities to modify existing management direction and/or develop new management direction.

YFO developed an initial list of preliminary issues/planning questions that may form the foundation of the decisions to be made. These questions may evolve further as the planning process progresses. These questions include the following:

- How do we best protect and manage the natural, biological, cultural, and paleontological resources on public lands?

- What resource uses are appropriate for the YFO? How should public use activities be managed?
- How do we evaluate public lands for special area designations?
- How do we integrate public land management with other agency and community plans?

2.5 EXISTING MANAGEMENT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD

Management decisions from the following plans will be carried forward as valid existing decisions with the exception of those existing decisions that are related to issues and management concerns described in the previous section. As described in Section 1, the public land administered by the YFO is managed with direction from three LUPs and nine LUP amendments:

- Yuma District Resource Management Plan (Yuma RMP) (1987)
- Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (1988)
- Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983)

In addition to the LUPs listed above, there are nine LUP amendments including:

- Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan – Goldwater Amendment (1990)
- Yuma District Resource Management Plan Amendment (1992)
- Yuma District (Bill Williams) Resource Management Plan Amendment (1994a)
- Yuma District (Havasui) Resource Management Plan Amendment (1994b)
- Yuma District (Lands) Resource Management Plan Amendment (1996)
- Statewide Legislative EIS to recommend suitability for Wild and Scenic Rivers (1996)
- Statewide Amendment for Standards and Guides (1997)
- Yuma District (North Baja EIS) Resource Management Plan Amendment (2002)
- Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Management (2004)

Other management directives that will be followed by the YFO include BLM programmatic level documents including but not limited to:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (May 1991)
- Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (1997)
- FONSI and Programmatic EA for Selected Actions for Mining Claim and Mill Site Use and Occupancy in Arizona
- Arizona State Lands Programmatic EA (under development)

Many of the elements of the existing management decisions will be carried forward given the existing plans have worked well and remain valid, in some cases. Determining which existing management decisions will be carried forward is a part of the planning process for this RMP. The RMP will be developed in accordance with guidance set forth in BLM H-1601-1 – Land Use Planning Handbook.

SECTION 3 – PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require the development of planning criteria to guide preparation of the RMP. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that guide and direct plan preparation. They ensure the plan is tailored to the identified issues and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are based on applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the result of consultation and coordination with the public, other federal, state, and local agencies, and Native American tribes (see Preparation Plan Appendix B-Laws, Regulations, Orders, Manuals, and Policies relating to RMPs).

The following preliminary criteria were developed and were reviewed by the public during scoping; they were also included in the *Federal Register* notice. After public comment analysis, the final planning criteria will be approved and distributed to all interested parties collaborating in the planning process.

3.1 GENERAL PLANNING CRITERIA

1. The plans will be completed in compliance with the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *National Environmental Policy Act*, *National Historic Preservation Act*, and all other relevant federal laws, executive orders (including wilderness legislation), national strategic plans and management policies of BLM.

In addition, there are other cross-cutting environmental laws and Executive Orders that may be affected by an agency's action, and they have been considered. These authorities include (but are not limited to) the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archeological Resource Protection Act, and such Executive Orders as EO 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," and EO 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."

2. The plan will result in determinations as required by special program and resource specific guidance detailed in Appendix C of BLM's Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), as amended by IM No. 2004-007, Attachment 1; Subject: Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan Guidance for Wildland Fire Management.
3. Where planning decisions have previously been made that still apply, those decisions will be carried forward into the plan. They will also use information developed and management alternatives proposed in previous studies of the planning area. Relevant decisions and alternatives proposed in previous studies of the planning area will be brought forward into the plan.
 - a. The planning team will work collaboratively with the State of Arizona; Yuma, La Paz, Imperial, Riverside, and Maricopa counties; Tribal governments; municipal

governments; other federal agencies; the Resource Advisory Council; and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals. Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, consistent with federal law and regulations.

4. Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy. Tribal concerns will be given due consideration.
5. Coordinate with the USFWS through the Section 7 consultation process to protect and enhance known habitat for threatened and endangered species and assist in the recovery of listed species to maintain biological diversity within the planning area. Review special status species, including species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, throughout the planning area to conserve habitat through inventory, monitoring, and adoption of conservation measures needed to curtail listing.
6. Coordination with the Arizona and California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted throughout the planning process.
7. The plan will recognize the states' responsibilities to manage wildlife populations, including uses such as hunting and fishing, within the planning area.
8. The plan will establish new guidance and identify existing guidance upon which BLM will rely in managing public lands within the YFO.
9. The RMP/EIS will incorporate the following existing plans and their decisions: Standards for Rangeland Health (1997) as Land Health Standards applicable to all resources and activities and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (1997), Proposed Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (2003) and the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management (2004). The Record of Decision for BLM vegetation treatment EIS will be incorporated upon its completion.
10. The RMP/EIS will carry forward existing wilderness areas, national trails, and ACECs.
11. Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are in conformance with legal mandates on management of public lands.
12. Geospatial data will be automated within a Geographic Information System (GIS) to facilitate discussions of the affected environment, alternative formulation, analysis of environmental consequences, and display of the results.
13. Resource allocations must be reasonable, achievable, supported by technology, and within budgetary constraints. Resource allocations must also be consistent with current BLM policy.

14. The lifestyles and concerns of area residents will be recognized in the plan.
15. Under the Clean Air Act, BLM administered lands were given a class II air quality classification unless reclassified by the states of California and Arizona. This classification allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. Actions within the Yuma County PM₁₀ non-attainment area will be assessed for conformance with air quality standards.
16. Protect the public from known safety hazards of abandoned mine lands (AML) and hazardous materials (hazmat) sites within the planning area. As identified in the draft IM entitled Mitigating and Remediating Physical Safety Hazards at AML Sites, the YFO will address closure or signage of all AML sites close to Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) sites. Closures and signage include temporary and remedial measures.
17. YFO is incorporating the Discovery Process™ (James Kent and Associates) to detect emerging issues affecting public land by engaging local citizens in the land use planning process.
18. Incorporate management decisions for the YFO RMP in accordance with the Final Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Coordinated Management Plan.
19. Incorporate management decisions from existing activity plans. A list of related plans can be found in Appendix A of the YFO Preparation Plan.
20. The plan will set forth a framework for managing recreational and commercial activities in order to maintain existing natural landscapes and to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public.

SECTION 4 – DATA SUMMARY/DATA GAPS

To perform a thorough analysis of project alternatives, data must be gathered for all of the resources to be analyzed. Much of the data will be collected in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) format, which will provide the framework for the data collection plan. This format will allow for the data to be mapped, and a qualitative, as well as a quantitative approach to be used in the analysis. Maps will be produced and printed in the document for the appropriate resources using the GIS data collected. Based on the issues raised during scoping, BLM will develop a database, which includes existing data available to BLM and identifies data gaps that must be filled during the RMP/EIS process.

This section documents existing GIS data and data and inventory needs, which will be necessary to prepare an RMP to meet current planning guidance, and to address anticipated issues unique to the planning area. Executive Order 12906 requires data collection to follow standards set forth by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The standards assure that data contain metadata (information about the data) for geospatial data used by federal agencies. Standards for existing BLM data follow Arizona BLM standards for metadata needs. Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS) data follow Arizona BLM standards and include metadata. New data will follow National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) standards and will have metadata stored in a database in conformance with BLM and FGDC standards. Existing GIS layers will be converted to the appropriate format that is compatible with BLM's Planning effort.

In addition to this data summary, Tetra Tech will develop an updated GIS data inventory and GIS revision strategy. The GIS data inventory will be an updated version of the GIS data inventory provided by BLM. The GIS revision strategy will identify the GIS data sources to be used in the RMP and outline the methods and level of effort needed to resolve data gaps. Where new data needs to be developed, the GIS revision strategy will outline a methodology, level of effort, and schedule.

Data Inventory

Cultural Resource Management – YFO has significant cultural resources that are visited by public land users. In order to protect these sites, cultural areas that were previously designated in other land use plans (in addition to the Yuma RMP) will be evaluated. The Anza Trail, a national trail within the YFO, will be located and designated on the ground. AZSite is the only GIS data available for cultural resources. Until the end of 2002, data was not reliable due to lack of control. Software was altered in 2003 to be stricter on data input. Data is now connected to AZsiteasu and the metadata is updated as it is collected by archeologists.

Environmental Justice – The YFO will gather data from the national census and local and county databases concerning minority and low-income populations in order to determine if proposed actions may cause disproportionate impacts to these populations.

Fire Management – The information needed for the YFO RMP revision is available within the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management, and upon completion of the YFO Fire Management Plan revision. Projected completion dates for these documents are May and September 2004, respectively. Information collected during the completion of the fire management plan such as fire frequency and distribution, vegetation inventory, and possibly delineation of potential and suitable habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher will help to make resource assessments during the Yuma RMP.

Hazardous Materials – The following three types of data could be collected: (1) inventory and map of recent pollution from public lands dumping containing hazmat, (2) transfer of unexploded ordnance contamination from MTPs to GIS, and (3) inventory and map of pollutants from mineral ore processing sites at active or abandoned mines. AML data is available from BLM's Arizona State Office. A hazmat site inventory would entail collecting information and recording the locations of the following types of sites: unauthorized dump sites, unexploded ordnance, AMLs, hazmat site inventory, and formerly used defense sites. It would also include updating the existing database.

Lands and Realty – Sources of data exist in LR2000, master title plats (MTPs), and historical indices (HI). GIS has no data on existing RMP-designated utility corridors. Most land use locations are not in GIS but should be on master title plats. Potential withdrawal and clean up areas will be determined, and the land tenure theme will be checked for accuracy. Current data are from the ALRIS. The Western Utility Group Corridor Study will be used for recommendations to propose new utility corridors. Communication Site Management Plans have been completed. Agricultural leases would be helpful to see in GIS for MSCP purposes.

Minerals – Sand and gravel extraction areas will be determined. Areas of prospectively valuable minerals will be mapped and entered into GIS. Mineral materials sites will also be mapped, which should include BLM sale and free use sites, community pits, common use areas, and Title 23 rights-of-way (material sites for Federal highways). Mineral material pits and quarries on private and state lands will also be mapped. Existing U.S. Geographical Survey (USGS) information would be incorporated into the plan.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species – Inventory efforts are ongoing as a result of a cooperative weed management area with the Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council. Key species include saltcedar and giant salvinia. There are currently three years of salvinia inventory data available.

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) – About 70 percent of the OHV route inventory for YFO is complete. This inventory will be completed in order to address route designation.

Paleontological Resources – The existing RMP did not address paleontological (paleo) resources. A literature search should be completed to determine the paleo potential within the planning area. A few areas appear to have fossils from the Holocene era.

Rangeland Management – All grazing allotments have been digitized into the GIS, along with about 60 percent of the range improvements, pastures, and other facilities. Evaluations for grazing allotments have recently been completed for compliance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management.

Recreation – GIS data is available for most of the recreation facilities managed by BLM. GIS data for proposed sites will be collected. RMIS data for decisions on potential site use and the need for new developments is available. Data will be gathered for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications for the YFO.

Riparian Management – Delineation of riparian and xeroriparian (dry wash) areas will be completed. Existing planning documents will be evaluated to determine the extent of riparian corridors of the lower Colorado and Gila rivers. This information, along with information on current levels of recreational use, will help determine whether revisions to use allocations are warranted for riparian areas.

Socioeconomics – As a result of IM 2003-169, an Economic Profile System will be conducted as a required element to complete the RMP revision. This is a series of workshops throughout the planning area. The Sonoran Institute has completed the economic profile database that was developed as a result of a national BLM task order. The information provided by the database can provide local information related to topics such as, population by age and gender, employment by industry, income distribution, and housing. Other data sources will include national census and local and county databases.

Soils – Sensitive soil inventory will allow areas for soil conservation to be identified, which may include areas such as desert pavement and sand dunes.

Special Area Designations – The YFO will map existing sites, as well as evaluate new proposals. These inventories and GIS maps would assist with this task in bringing forward information that may meet SMA criteria. The YFO will determine if areas with characteristics worthy of resource protection by means of special area designations such as ACEC exist in the planning area.

Special Status Species – The GIS has limited data for desert tortoise, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and flat-tailed horned lizard. Most of these data end at the old Yuma District boundary. More data will be obtained through the Lower Gila North and South RMPs. The field office will have an agreement in place for interagency sharing of GIS data. GIS data is available for the LCRMSCP.

Historical habitat and species inventories will be evaluated for their accuracy and reliability. New inventories may be needed to replace outdated information. Selected areas (e.g., Palomas Plains) will be inventoried and evaluated for sensitive species habitat to guide development of new habitat management plans and future management decisions to benefit sensitive species.

Data for fish and aquatic habitats will be entered into GIS. Data are needed for several other species that have been or may become listed.

No Threatened and Endangered (T&E) plants exist within the YFO. Rare plant locality data will be added to the GIS database.

Transportation/Access – Transportation data are available on GIS for a majority of the planning area. Ongoing data collection is updated as it is collected. The YFO has an urgent need to identify OHV trails and drivable washes based on the evidence of increased usage from visitors and impacts to cultural and natural resources.

Vegetation Management – Vegetation data is available for California. Vegetation data is also available (source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Boulder City) for the Colorado River Corridor south to Mexico. Outside sources may be necessary to contract for collection, synthesis, and production of vegetation data in GIS formats. This data may also be available from the YFO Fire Management Plan that is scheduled for completion September 2004.

Visual Resources Management (VRM) – VRM classifications will be reevaluated and mapped for the entire planning area. The existing RMP only generalized VRM classes by geographic features and did not specifically map the areas by boundaries.

Wilderness Characteristics – YFO has wilderness inventory data from FLPMA Section 603.

Wild Horses and Burros – Herd area and management area boundaries have been digitized in GIS for the Cibola-Trigo Herd Management Area (HMA). For the Cibola-Trigo HMA, permanent vegetation monitoring sites and historical capture locations have been digitized into the GIS. In cooperation with the California Desert District, 16 burros were fitted with radio telemetry collars in the Chocolate/Mules and Cibola-Trigo HMAs in California and all tracking data are being digitized into the GIS. Limited data exists on this HMA.

SECTION 5 – SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

BLM planning process includes nine basic steps. These steps allow for community and political input, participation, and support. BLM collaborative approach to planning entails working together with Tribal, State, and local governments; other Federal agencies; and interested organizations and individuals, throughout the planning process through mailings, public workshops, open houses, and public response periods. This approach helps to establish a long-term commitment by the participants for a shared responsibility and stewardship for the land.

BLM resource management planning process is described in *Code of Federal Regulations* Title 43, Chapter II, Part 1610.4-1 through 1610.4-9. The basic steps of this process are listed below.

5.1 IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Issues were identified through the scoping process. The issues suggested by the public, along with issues identified by BLM are documented in this scoping report. Issues may be modified during the planning process to incorporate new information.

5.2 DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria guide the development of the RMP to ensure that it focuses on the issues previously identified and to avoid unnecessary data collection and analysis. BLM established the planning criteria based on issues identified through the scoping process. These criteria are described in Sections 2 and 3 of this Scoping Report.

5.3 INVENTORY DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECTION

Data and information collection will include existing data described in Section 4 of this Scoping Report. Additional data will be obtained from current studies being conducted by BLM and specific agency coordination will be initiated, including the USFWS Section 7 consultation and SHPO Section 106 consultation.

5.4 ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

The management situation analysis is an assessment of the current management situation in the resource area and is used to identify opportunities when forming alternatives to the existing management practices.

5.5 FORMULATION OF ALTERNATIVES

A range of reasonable management alternatives to the existing management situation, which address the issues identified in scoping, will be considered. One alternative analyzed will be the no action alternative, which assumes that the present management practices continue. All of the alternatives will comply with BLM's planning regulations and policies and other laws and regulations.

5.6 ESTIMATION OF EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES

BLM will assess all of the potential effects of the proposed management alternatives.

5.7 SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The YFO manager will develop a proposal with a preferred alternative based on the assessment of all proposed alternatives. The preferred alternative will be incorporated into the draft RMP and draft EIS. The draft RMP/EIS, with the recommended preferred alternative, will be forwarded to BLM Arizona State Director for approval, publication, and filing with the Environmental Protection Agency. The draft RMP/EIS will be distributed to the Governors of Arizona and California and other federal, state, and local agencies, and tribes, and will be available for public review and comment for a 90-day period.

5.8 SELECTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

After publication of the draft RMP/EIS and reviewing all of the comments received, the YFO will select and recommend to BLM Arizona State Director for review and publication, a proposed RMP and final EIS. After a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and simultaneous 30-day protest period, a final decision will be made and the Record of Decision and approved RMP will be published.

5.9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The proposed plan will establish intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluation of the plan. Monitoring will allow BLM to determine the effectiveness of the RMP and to determine whether there is cause to warrant amendments or revisions to the plan.

SECTION 6 – REFERENCES

Code of Federal Regulations. Title 43, Chapter II, Part 1610.4-1 through 1610.4-9.

James Kent and Associates. 2001. *Social Considerations for the Yuma Field Office in Developing a Preparation Plan for a New Resource Management Plan*. May 21-25.

_____. 2004. *Identifying the Interests and Issues of Winter Visitors in the Yuma Area: A Social Ecology Approach to Community-Based Management*. February 23-27.

U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM. 2004. *Proposed Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment*. Arizona State Office. March.

_____. 2004. *Land Use Planning Handbook*. BLM Handbook H-1601-1. July release.

APPENDIX A – SCOPING MATERIALS

Notice of Intent
Legal Notice
Legal Notice (Spanish)
Press Release
Press Release Distribution List
Postcard
Open House/Scoping Meeting Flyer
Open House/Scoping Meeting Flyer (Spanish)
Flyer Locations
Scoping Meeting Handouts
Scoping Meeting Comment Form
Tribal Consultation Letter and Recipients
Recreational Vehicle Park Managers' Letter

NOI, published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2003, to prepare an amendment to the CRMP with an associated EIS for the CCFO to address energy resources, fire management, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and designations, and Churchill County open-space needs. The NOI has been corrected to change the United States Navy's status in the process from a joint interest in the plan amendment to a cooperating agency for the EIS. The Navy's intent to revise its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) has been postponed to a later date. In addition, the plan amendment now includes an analysis of a proposal to develop a geothermal power plant east of Fallon, NV. The planning area is primarily limited to Churchill County, Nevada, for all issues with the exception of energy resources, which will be addressed for all lands managed by the CCFO. The BLM will continue to work collaboratively and cooperatively with interested parties to identify management decisions that may address local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This notice reinitiates the public scoping process. Comments can be submitted in writing to the address listed below, and will be accepted throughout the preparation of the Draft CRMP/EIS. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and scoping documents at least 15 days prior to the event. At a minimum, another public meeting will be held in Fallon, Nevada. Formal opportunities for public participation also will be provided through comment on the draft and final documents.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to BLM Carson City Field Office, 5865 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701; Fax (775) 885-6147.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, write to the above address or call Gary Ryan (Project Manager) at (775) 426-4011 or Terri Knutson (BLM Environmental Planner) at (775) 885-6156.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 22, 2003 the BLM published the *Notice of Intent To Prepare a Combined Amendment to the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan and a Revision to the Naval Air Station Fallon Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Known as the Churchill County Plan, and Associated Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register* (Vol. 68, No. 140, Pg. 43368-43369). Through the scoping process and after several meetings with planning partners and the Navy, the Navy determined that revision of its INRMP would not be a part of this plan amendment. In addition, the BLM received a proposal from Nevada Geothermal Specialists LLC (NGS) for the development of a geothermal power plant located approximately ten miles east of Fallon, NV. In the interest of cost and time savings, BLM determined that the analysis of the power plant will be included in the Churchill County Plan and EIS.

Dated: February 5, 2004.

Elayn Briggs,

Associate Field Manager, Carson City Field Office.

(FR Doc. 04-7001 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am)

BILLING CODE 4310-NC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZ 050-04-1610-DO; 1610]

Arizona: Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the BLM Yuma Field Office

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the public lands located within the boundaries of the Yuma Field Office. The revised Yuma RMP will replace portions of the existing Yuma District Resource Management Plan (1987), portions of the

Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (1988), and portions of the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983). Public scoping meetings to identify relevant issues will be announced in advance through BLM's Web site and in local news media.

DATES: The scoping comment period commences with the publication of this notice and will continue for at least 60 days. Public meetings will be held during the spring of 2004. Public notice will be provided specifying when the meetings will occur and will include notification of when the scoping period will close.

ADDRESSES: Yuma Resource Management Plan—Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd., Yuma, AZ 85365. Use the above mailing address to mail or hand deliver written comments; additionally, comments can be faxed to (928) 317-3250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Micki Bailey, Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd., Yuma, AZ 85365, telephone (928) 317-3215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Yuma Field Office, Yuma, Arizona, intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the public lands within the boundaries of the Yuma Field Office. The RMP/EIS will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), other laws, regulations, and BLM management policies. The BLM will work closely with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to the needs of the public. This collaborative process will take into account local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The first phase of the planning process is scoping which includes the identification of issues that should be addressed in the planning process and development of planning criteria.

The Yuma Field Office area encompasses 1.2 million acres along the lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California, extending eastward into Arizona. The public lands are configured in an area 155 miles long and up to 90 miles wide. This area extends northward along the lower Colorado River from the Southern International Boundary at San Luis, Arizona, to north of Blythe, California, and Ehrenberg, Arizona. The Yuma Field Office boundary extends eastward to the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness

Area and south along the Yuma and Maricopa county line to the northern boundary of the Barry Goldwater Range. The planning area is located in Yuma, La Paz, and Maricopa Counties in Arizona; and Imperial and Riverside Counties in California. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. These issues also guide the planning process. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Yuma Field Office at the above address during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Documents relevant to the planning effort may be examined during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at the BLM Yuma Field Office at the above address. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Public meetings will be held throughout the planning process. In order to ensure local community participation and input, public meetings will occur in many cities and towns within the planning area, which include Dateland, Quartzsite, San Luis, Somerton, Wellton, and Yuma, Arizona; and Blythe, California. Early participation by all those interested is encouraged and will help determine the future management of the public lands. At least 15 days public notice will be given for activities where the public is invited to attend. Meetings and comment deadlines will be announced through the local news media and newsletters. In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in meetings with individuals and user groups. This represents the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management.

Additional issues and refinement of known issues will be identified during public scoping. The major issues that will be addressed during the planning process include, but are not limited to, management of public land resources including natural resource management; cultural resource management and protection; recreation/visitor use and safety; access and transportation on the public lands; location and management of utility corridors; management of grazing, mining, mineral materials, and other uses; and better coordination of public land management, local community, tribal, and other agency needs and plans.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of four categories:

1. How do we best protect and manage the natural, biological, and cultural resources on the public lands?
2. What resource uses are appropriate for the Yuma Field Office? How should public use activities be managed?
3. How do we evaluate public lands under appropriate designations?
4. How do we coordinate public land management with other agency and community plans?

In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify management concerns during the scoping phase.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include rangeland management, minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, archaeology, wildlife, wilderness, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology, and economics. Where necessary, outside expertise may be used.

Dated: January 29, 2004.
Thomas Zale,
Acting Field Manager, Yuma.
[FR Doc. 04-6997 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-32-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 60-day notice of information collection under review; notice of firearms manufactured or imported.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until June 1, 2004. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

If you have comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Cary Schaible, National Firearms Act Branch, Room 5100, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226.

Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled for Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision

Mire abajo por información disponible en Español

Yuma, Arizona – The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Yuma Field Office is planning four public scoping meetings to provide the opportunity to learn more about the resource management planning process underway for the Yuma Field Office planning area. These public lands are in the vicinity of Yuma, Somerton, San Luis, Wellton, Dateland, Tacna, Hyder, Quartzsite, Ehrenberg, and Blythe, and other surrounding communities within Yuma, La Paz, Imperial, Riverside, and Maricopa, counties.

BLM is holding open houses to gather information for future management of these areas and we invite the public to provide relevant questions and ideas regarding what the plans should address for the BLM administered public lands within the planning area. The views provided at these meetings and during the comment period, which closes June 30, 2004, will be evaluated in an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Yuma Resource Management Plan. The open house format allows interested individuals to attend anytime during the scoping meeting. Dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, June 1, 5 - 7 p.m.

BLM Yuma Field Office Conference Room
2555 E. Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365

Thursday, June 3, 3 - 5 p.m.

Quartzsite Town Hall
465 N. Plymouth Road
Quartzsite, AZ 85346

Wednesday, June 2, 5 - 7 p.m.

Blythe City Hall Council Chambers
235 N. Broadway
Blythe, CA 92225

Friday, June 4, 5 - 7 p.m.

Antelope High School Auditorium
9168 S. Avenue 36 E
Wellton, AZ 85356

Please send comments to us by June 30, 2004. To send written comments and or obtain further information, please contact:

Si usted necesita información en Español, por favor llame a Ron Morfin (928-317-3200).

Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office
2555 E Gila Ridge Rd
Yuma, AZ 85365
928-317-3200 voice
928-317-3250 fax
AZ_YM_RMP@BLM.gov

NEWS RELEASE

WWW.AZ.BLM.GOV



YFO-04-05

For Release: May 20, 2004

Revision Plan for Public Lands BLM Hosts Open House Meetings

Yuma, Ariz. – Looking to update resource plans for federal lands in the area, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold Open House meetings June 1 – 4, throughout the area.

Presently, 1.2 million acres of public lands located within the boundaries of BLM Yuma Field Office are being managed by three resource management plans and several plan amendments. The office will prepare a revised Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consolidate the various plans.

The Open House meetings will begin the scoping process for citizen suggestions and comments on issues to be addressed in the revised RMP and EIS. Each open house will begin with a brief overview of the RMP/EIS process. The balance of each session will be open to receive comments and to talk with resource staff.

Open House Meetings

Yuma	Tuesday, June 1 • 5 to 7 p.m. BLM Yuma Field Office • 2555 Gila Ridge Road, Yuma
Blythe	Wednesday, June 2 • 5 to 7 p.m. Blythe City Hall Council Chambers • 235 N. Broadway, Blythe
Quartzsite	Thursday, June 3 • 3 to 5 p.m. Quartzsite Town Hall • 465 N. Plymouth Avenue, Quartzsite
Wellton	Friday, June 4 • 5 to 7 p.m. Antelope High School Auditorium, 9168 S. 36 E, Wellton

In addition to the meetings, citizens may submit RMP/EIS comments and issues in writing to BLM Yuma Field Office, 2555 E. Gila Ridge Road, Yuma, Arizona 85365, or through the internet at AZ_YM_RMP@BLM.gov. The closing date for comments will be June 30, 2004. For further information, please contact Micki Bailey at 928-317-3200.

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KAWC YUMA
KXKQ SAFF
K101 S VISTA
KAFF FLGSTFF

KFMM SAFF
KFLX FLGSTFF
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FOX11 TV TUCS
KOLD5 TV TUCS
KVOA12 TV TUCS
KYMA TV YUMA
AZ RADIO NETWRK
KBSZ AM WCKNBRG
KHOT KHOV FM PX
AZ WLDLF VW PHX
KINGMAN MINER
KEOT ST GEORG
KPHO5 TV PHX
KIIH FM TUCSON
KIIM FM TUC
MHVE VLLY NWS

Please take a few moments to briefly answer the following questions and return them to the address provided.

1. What do you value about these public lands and why? _____

2. What activities or uses on these public lands are important to you and why? _____

3. How would you like to see the scientific, traditional, recreational, cultural, and natural resources of this area managed? _____

4. Is there anything else you want to tell us? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

☐ Add my name to the mailing list

☐ Note corrections to my name and address

☐ Remove my name from the mailing list

☐ Withhold my contact information from public review or
from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act

✂----- *Detach Here* -----✂

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365-2240

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Please join the Bureau of Land Management in planning for your public lands!



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office manages 1.2 million acres of public land within southwest Arizona and southeast California. BLM will be revising a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the area to replace the three existing outdated management plans. In conjunction with the revision of the RMP, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The EIS will assess the possible environmental and social effects of different management alternatives for the BLM-managed lands in the planning area.

The planning process is expected to take about three years and involve several steps. There will be many opportunities for public involvement beginning with the first step, *Public Scoping and Issue Identification*. We encourage you to get involved in this process to help us identify what issues the plan should address by sending us comments and attending the public meetings throughout the process. Additional opportunities for public involvement will continue during alternative development and the draft plan process.

We would like to know your interest and how you would like to see your public lands managed. You are receiving this mailing because you have expressed an interest in the past or have been identified as having a potential interest in our planning effort. If you would like to continue receiving future mailings, please detach the card provided and return it to our office with your comments by June 30, 2004. Your comments will be compiled with others and written into our *Scoping Report* which will be available in early fall of this year.

Open House Schedule

June 1 (Tuesday), 5-7 p.m., Yuma Field Office BLM, 2555 E Gila Ridge Rd, Yuma, AZ

June 2 (Wednesday), 5-7 p.m., Blythe City Hall Council Chambers, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA

June 3 (Thursday), 3-5 p.m., Quartzsite Town Hall, 465 N. Plymouth Ave., Quartzsite, AZ

June 4 (Friday), 5-7 p.m., Antelope High School Auditorium, 9168 S. 36 E, Wellton, AZ

How to Contact Us

Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead, 2555 E Gila Ridge Rd, Yuma, AZ 85365

Phone: 928-317-3200 ♦ FAX: 928-317-3250 ♦ E-mail: AZ YM RMP@blm.gov ♦ <http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/planning.htm>

✂----- **Detach Here** -----✂

Place
Stamp
Here

**Yuma Field Office Planning Effort
Bureau of Land Management
2555 E Gila Ridge Rd
Yuma, AZ 85365**



Planning TODAY for wise use, protection, and preservation for TOMORROW!



New Plan For Public Lands

**Be involved with BLM in planning for
1.2 million acres of public lands
by attending a
Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Open House**

- Yuma** **Tuesday, June 1, 5 to 7 p.m.**
BLM Yuma Field Office Conference Room, 2555 Gila Ridge Road
- Blythe** **Wednesday, June 2, 5 to 7 p.m.**
Blythe City Hall Council Chambers, 235 N. Broadway
- Quartzsite** **Thursday, June 3, 3 to 5 p.m.**
Quartzsite Town Hall, 465 N. Plymouth Avenue
- Wellton** **Friday, June 4, 5 to 7 p.m.**
Antelope High School Auditorium, 9168 S. 36 E

Each meeting will begin with a brief overview of the RMP.
The balance of each session will be open for you to express concerns and issues
with resource staff.

For more information about the meetings or the RMP process, please contact
Micki Bailey at the BLM Yuma Field Office at 928-317-3200.



El Plan Nuevo Para Tierras Públicas

Sea implicado con BLM en la planificación para 1.2 millones de acres de tierras públicas asistiendo un Plan de la Administración del Recurso (RMP) Reunión del Público

- Yuma** **Martes, 1 de Junio de 5 a 7 p.m.**
La Sala de reuniones en la oficina de BLM Yuma, 2555 Gila Ridge Rd
- Blythe** **Miércoles, 2 de Junio de 5 a 7 p.m.**
Las Cámaras del Concilio de municipalidad de Blythe, 235 N. Broadway
- Quartzsite** **Jueves, 3 de Junio de 3 a 5 p.m.**
El Ayuntamiento de Quartzsite, 465 N. Plymouth Avenue
- Wellton** **Viernes, 4 de Junio de 5 a 7 p.m.**
La Sala de la Preparatoria de Antelope, 9168 S. 36 E

Cada reunión empezará con una vista general breve del RMP. El equilibrio de cada sesión estará abierto para usted expresar concierne y publica con el personal del recurso.

Para más información acerca de las reuniones o el proceso de RMP, por favor de contactar a Ron Morfin en la oficina exterior de BLM, Yuma al 928-317-3200.

**Yuma Field Office
Open House Flyer Locations
May 17-21, 2004**

- 250 copies of the flyers were distributed throughout the planning area to announce the Open Houses scheduled in Yuma, Blythe, Quartzsite, and Wellton
- 75 additional copies were translated and distributed at appropriate locations

City	Location	Posted By
Yuma	YFO Front Desk	M. Bailey
Yuma	MCAS Post Office	S. Fusilier
Yuma	MCAS Commissary	S. Fusilier
Yuma	MCAS Bowling Alley	S. Fusilier
Yuma	MCAS 7-Day Store	S. Fusilier
Yuma	MCAS Officers/Enlisted Club	S. Fusilier
Yuma	MCAS Gas Station	S. Fusilier
Tacna	Post Office	R. Conde
Tacna	Basque Etchea Restaurant	R. Conde
Tacna	Tacna Market	R. Conde
Roll	Roll Market	R. Conde
Wellton	IGA Market	R. Conde
Wellton	Post Office	R. Conde
Wellton	Cathy's Café	R. Conde
Wellton	Geronimo's Cafe	R. Conde
Yuma	Chevron 7E & 95	B. Alexander
Yuma	Mittry Corridor - South	B. Alexander
Yuma	Betty's Kitchen	B. Alexander
Mittry	Boat Launch	B. Alexander
Mittry	Mittry Corridor - North	B. Alexander
Hidden Shores	Bulletin by pay phones	B. Alexander
Imperial Dam	Kiosk @ Christian Center Rd.	B. Alexander
South Mesa	1 st bathroom kiosk	B. Alexander
South Mesa	2 nd bathroom kiosk	B. Alexander
Ferguson Lake Rd	Ferguson/North Shore access kiosk	B. Alexander
North Shore SW	North Shore kiosk	B. Alexander
Senator's Wash Boat Launch	Kiosk @ parking lot	B. Alexander
Squaw Lake	Campground fee pipe kiosk	B. Alexander
Squaw Lake	Camp host Purand	B. Alexander
Bard, CA	Post Office bulletin board	B. Alexander
Yuma	Yuma County (City) library	B. Alexander
Yuma	E.C. Check Cashing	B. Alexander
Yuma	Mesa Sport Shop	B. Alexander
Yuma	Big 5 Sporting Goods	B. Alexander
Yuma	Sprague's Sports & Western	B. Alexander
Brenda	The Country Store bulletin board	R. Morfin
Brenda	Brenda RV @ mailbox, counter	R. Morfin
Brenda	Brenda RV @ mailbox, bulletin board	R. Morfin
New Water Mtns Wilderness	Hidden Tanks kiosk	R. Morfin

**Yuma Field Office
Open House Flyer Locations
May 17-21, 2004**

City	Location	Posted By
Eagletail Mtns Wilderness	Courthouse Rock trailhead kiosk	R. Morfin
Harquhala Valley	Mercado de Amigos, spanish	R. Morfin
Harquhala Valley	Mercado de Amigos	R. Morfin
Harquhala Valley	OHV kiosk & Hyder Road, spanish	R. Morfin
Harquhala Valley	OHV kiosk & Hyder Road	R. Morfin
Yuma	Foxworth & Galbrath	G. Rowell
Foothills	Fry's, soda machine	G. Rowell
Foothills	Donut Corral	G. Rowell
Foothills	Green Tree Grocery	G. Rowell
Foothills	Post Office	G. Rowell
Foothills	Pack Rats Mailing Post	G. Rowell
Foothills	Credit Union AEA	G. Rowell
Foothills	Postal Plus	G. Rowell
Foothills	Sheriff's Office	G. Rowell
Foothills	Farwest Water	G. Rowell
Foothills	The Grocery Store	G. Rowell
Foothills	Foothills Hardware	G. Rowell
Foothills	Arizona Land Sales	G. Rowell
Foothills	Foothills Bank	G. Rowell
Foothills	Foothills Library	G. Rowell
Yuma	Checker Auto	G. Rowell
Foothills	5 Star Video	G. Rowell
Dateland	Exxon gas station	J. Bate
Dateland	The Palms gift shop/restaurant	J. Bate
Dateland	Dateland Elementary School	J. Bate
Dateland	Dateland Store/Post Office	J. Bate
Walter's Camp	South Beach (Harold)	J. Bate
Walter's Camp	Store (2)	J. Bate
Walter's Camp	Fire Department	J. Bate
Gadsden	Post Office, 2	A. Lopez
San Luis	Fernando Padilla Community Center, 6	A. Lopez
San Luis	Senior Center, 2	A. Lopez
San Luis	Fernando Cordova Jr. Library, 2	A. Lopez
Somerton	Parks & Recreation, 2	A. Lopez
Somerton 85350	Dream Home & Garage, 2	A. Lopez
Somerton 85350	Library, 10	A. Lopez
Yuma	Davidson Marine	J. Green
Quartzsite	VFW – BB (#769)	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Pattie's RV, Laundromat	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Herb's Hardware	W. Garner
Quartzsite	City Hall, 5	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Library, 2	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Quartzsite General Store, 2	W. Garner

**Yuma Field Office
Open House Flyer Locations
May 17-21, 2004**

City	Location	Posted By
Quartzsite	Road Runner Market, 2	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Palm Plaza, Laundromat	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Post Office	W. Garner
Quartzsite	Mark's Family Restaurant	W. Garner
Blythe	Library-Chancellor's Way	W. Garner
Blythe	Blythe Laundromat	W. Garner
Blythe	Fred's Kawasaki	W. Garner
Blythe	Country Wash Laundromat	W. Garner
Blythe	Steaks 'N Cakes Restaurant	W. Garner
Yuma	VFW #8242 – mile post 36	W. Garner
Palo Verde	Oxbow Campground	B. Alexander
Palo Verde	Oxbow Boat Ramp	B. Alexander
Palo Verde	Wheelies	B. Alexander
Palo Verde	Post Office	B. Alexander
Palo Verde	The Lagoon II Liquor and Package Store	B. Alexander
Martinez Lake	Boat Shop/Convenience Store	R. Oyler
Martinez Lake	Lake Martinez Cantina	R. Oyler
Martinez Lake	The Other Place	R. Oyler
Martinez Lake	Community Post Office	R. Oyler
Hidden Shores	Main Office/2	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	YMCA 4 th Ave./1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Sam's Club/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Walmart/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Circle K/Pacific & 32 nd /1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Target/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Walgreens/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Liberty Motor Sports/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Circle K/16 th & Freeway/1	K. Reichhardt
Yuma	Shay Oil (Chevron)/6	K. Reichhardt

Yuma Field Office Bureau of Land Management

Resource Management Plan Open House



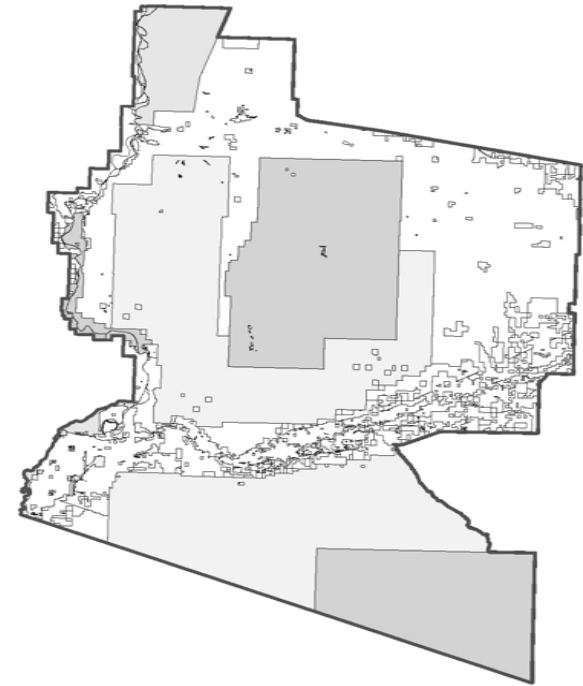
Why are we doing a plan revision?

- Current Yuma Resource Management Plan (RMP) is 17 years old
- Field Office boundaries were modified in 1992
- Land Use Plan Evaluation was completed in FY-00 and recommended a revision
- Current demands on resources were not anticipated by the current plan
- New information is available
- We need to take a comprehensive look at resource demands and capabilities given current social and economic values within the planning area



Planning Area Description

- Yuma Field Office encompasses 1.2 million acres in 2 states and 5 counties
- Lower Colorado River is a major attraction for year-round recreation
- Designated wilderness in both states
- 2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Management Areas, National Historic Trail
- Full compliment of Lands, Minerals & Resources programs
- Fire program with wildland/urban interface and unique, volatile fuels



What decisions will be made?

- How do we best protect and manage the natural, biological, and cultural resources on public lands?
- What resource uses are appropriate for the Yuma Field Office? How should public use activities be managed?
- How do we evaluate public lands under appropriate designations?
- How do we integrate public land management with other agency and community plans?



Nine-Step Process for a Resource Management Plan

1. Planning Issues Identification
2. Planning Criteria Development
3. Data and Information Collection
4. Management Situation Analysis
5. Alternatives Formulation
6. Alternatives Assessment
7. Preferred Alternative Selection
8. Management Plan Selection
9. Implementation and Monitoring



Project Schedule

Preparation Plan Approval.....	April 30, 2004
Public Scoping Open House	June 1-4, 2004
Scoping Report.....	September 2004
Alternatives Formulation.....	May 2005
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).....	December 2005
Proposed RMP/Final EIS.....	June 2006
Approved RMP.....	December 2006



Wildlife & Resources



- Threatened & Endangered Species
 - Mohave Desert Tortoise
 - Southwestern willow flycatcher
 - Yuma Clapper Rail
- Sensitive Species
 - Flat-tailed horned lizard
 - Sonoran Desert Tortoise
- Priority Wildlife Habitat
- Habitat Improvement
- Habitat Restoration
- Wild Horse & Burros
- Range
- Livestock Grazing



Recreation



- Long -Term Visitor Areas
- Off-highway Vehicle Use
- Route Designations
- Special Recreational Use Permits
- Anza National Historic Trail
- Hiking Trails
- Biking
- Kiosks
- Boating Access
- Campgrounds
- Hunting & Fishing
- Recreation Access



Cultural Resources



- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Preservation and Protection of cultural resources
- Interpretation
- National Historic Trails
- Prevention of Looting & Vandalism



Wilderness

- Wilderness Managed by the Yuma Field Office
 - Muggins Mountain
 - Eagletail Mountains
 - New Waters Mountains
 - Trigo Mountain
 - Little Picacho
 - Palo Verde Mountains
 - Big Maria Mountains
 - Riverside Mountains
- Protect and preserve unique values
- Interpretation



Lands, Minerals, and Surface Protection

- Utility Corridors
- Rights-of-Ways
- Surface Protection
- Mining
- Mineral Material
- Community Pits
- Recreation and Public Purpose
- Concessions
- Land Tenure Adjustments and Urban Growth
- Acquisition, Exchange, and Disposal



Fire

- Hazardous Fuel Reduction
- Wildfire Suppression
- Prescribed Fire
- Air Quality
- Wildland Urban Interface



Public Health & Safety

- Hazardous Materials
- Illegal Dumping
- Unexploded Ordnance
- Unauthorized Use (Trespass)
- Air Quality
- Abandoned Mine Lands



Social & Economic Concerns

- Population Growth
- Utilities and Public Services
- Local Economic Benefits
- Environmental Justice



Participants in the Process



- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Native American Tribes (AZ and CA)
- Cities
- Counties
- Irrigation Districts
- Special Interest Groups
- General Public



Public Opportunity for Involvement

- Open Houses
- Economic Workshops
- Public Meetings
- Internet AZ BLM Website
<http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/planning.htm>
- RMP Planning Bulletin




Collaborative, Community-Based Partnership



- Collaborative Adaptive Management is:
 - Management practices based on identified desired outcomes or landscape goals
 - Monitoring to determine if outcomes are being met
 - Ability to make changes when outcomes are not being met
 - Involving the public as a partner in planning and management
- The process would involve:
 - Identify community networks
 - Build capacity in community leadership
 - Provide collaboration training
 - Establish one or more community-based committees, etc.



Collaborative, Community-Based Partnership



- Build lasting relationships
- Agree upon the legal sideboards early on
- Encourage diverse participation and communication
- Work at an appropriate scale
- Empower the group
- Share the resources and the rewards
- Build internal support



How to Contact Us



For project information, please contact:

Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead

Bureau of Land Management

Yuma Field Office

2555 E Gila Ridge Rd

Yuma, AZ 85365

Phone: (928)317-3200 / FAX: (928)317-3250

E-mail: AZ_YM_RMP@blm.gov

Webpage: www.az.blm.gov/LUP/planning.htm



Please take a few moments to briefly answer the following questions and return them to the address provided.

1. *What do you value about these public lands and why?*

2. *What activities or uses on these public lands are important to you and why?*

3. *How would you like to see the scientific, traditional, recreational, cultural, and natural resources of this area managed?*

4. *Is there anything else you want to tell us?*

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

- ☐ Add my name to the mailing list
- ☐ Note corrections to my name and address
- ☐ Remove my name from the mailing list
- ☐ Withhold my contact information from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act

How to Contact Us

Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead, 2555 E Gila Ridge Rd, Yuma, AZ 85365
Phone: 928-317-3200 ♦ FAX: 928-317-3250 ♦ E-mail: AZ_YM_RMP@blm.gov ♦
<http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/planning.htm>



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
YFOWEB_AZ@blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
(1610-050)
AZ-

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

See Mailing Label Addresses

Dear <See Mailing Label Addresses>:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning the process of preparing a resource management plan for the Yuma Field Office. This proposed action will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The resource management plan will guide the use, protection, and management of natural and cultural resources within the Yuma Field Office planning area. The BLM will work cooperatively with state, local, and tribal governments in developing these plans. We would like to initiate consultations and invite you to participate in the planning process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites.

The resource management planning area extends northward along the lower Colorado River from the Southern International Boundary at San Luis, Arizona, to north of Blythe, California, and Ehrenberg, Arizona. The Yuma Field Office boundary extends eastward to the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area and south along the Yuma and Maricopa County line to the northern boundary of the Barry Goldwater Range. The planning area is located in Yuma, La Paz, and Maricopa Counties in Arizona; and Imperial and Riverside Counties in California (see enclosed Project Location Map).

We request your comments on any issues or concerns regarding the management of these planning areas. We would appreciate any historical information on the use and significance of these areas, such as whether there are any places of traditional religious or cultural importance that your tribe wishes the BLM to consider in determining tribal needs for use, access, or other special management. At your request, we will keep specific information confidential, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

We would like to present information on our planning effort at your next tribal council meeting or at a tribal community meeting so council members and any individuals in the tribe may fully participate in the planning process, be informed about future management actions within the Yuma Field Office, and are able to comment effectively during the RMP process. If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted to express their interests or concerns regarding the resource management plan.

Your immediate comments and concerns will be incorporated into a Scoping Report which will be completed October of this year. Comments received from state, local, and tribal governments, interest groups and the general public will set the framework for alternative formulation. Tribal consultation is crucial in making effective decisions for public lands within the Yuma Field Office. We wish to include individuals or groups which will be affected by decisions made in the revised Yuma RMP. If possible, we request that you identify traditional leaders or elders who you determine should be contacted to express their interests or concerns regarding the resource management plan.

We value your knowledge, concerns, and perspectives relating to the planning area. As always, we look forward to working with you cooperatively to address your concerns. If you would like further information or want to request a meeting, please contact Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead, at (928) 317-3215. With regard to cultural heritage issues, you may wish to contact Sandra Arnold, the archaeologist on the planning team, at (928) 317-3239. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zale
Acting Field Manager

Enclosure Map of planning area

TRIBAL CONSULTANT LETTER RECEIPIENTS

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Cocopah Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- Fort-Yuma Quechan Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community
- Havasupai Tribe
- The Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
- Las Vegas Band of Paiute Indians
- Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- The Navajo Nation
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tonto Apache Tribe
- Viejas Band of Mission Indians
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yavapai-Prescott Tribe



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Yuma Field Office

2555 East Gila Ridge Road

Yuma, AZ 85365-2240

In reply refer to:

1610 (050)

JUN 16 2004

Dear RV Park Manager:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office manages 1.2 million acres of public land within southwest Arizona and southeast California. BLM will be revising a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the area to replace the three existing outdated management plans. In conjunction with the revision of the RMP, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. The EIS will assess the possible environmental and social effects of different management alternatives for the BLM-managed lands in the planning area.

The planning process is expected to take about three years and involve several steps. There will be many opportunities for public involvement beginning with the first step, *Public Scoping and Issue Identification*. We encourage you and your residents to get involved in this process to help us identify what issues the plan should address by sending us comments and attending the public meetings throughout the process. Additional opportunities for public involvement will continue during alternative development and the draft plan process.

The Yuma Field Office BLM recognizes that many of our part-time residents currently are not residing in the area, but may have an interest with our RMP revision. We understand that many of the parks keep in touch by means of e-mail or newsletters. We would appreciate your sharing this information with your residents. We would like to know your interests and the interests of our part-time residents on how you and they would like to see the public lands managed.

We have included our contact information below if you or any of the part-time residents are interested in submitting comments. Although the deadline for comment during the initial scoping ends on June 30, there will be many other opportunities for you to participate in the planning process. Comments should be post marked by June 30, 2004. Any comments we receive will be compiled with others and written into our *Scoping Report* which will be available in early fall of this year. Individuals that reply should indicate if they would like to be added to our mailing list to receive updated information on the project or if their contact information should be withheld from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you.

How to Contact Us

Micki Bailey, RMP Team Lead, 2555 E Gila Ridge Rd, Yuma, AZ 85365

Phone: 928-317-3200 ♦ FAX: 928-317-3250 ♦ E-mail: AZ_YM_RMP@blm.gov ♦

<http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/planning.htm>

Sincerely,

Thomas Zalc

Acting Field Manager

APPENDIX B
COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
1-01	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
1-02	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
1-03	How will YFO protect supplemental values (endangered plant/animal species, unique plants, outstanding representations of plant communities, prehistoric/historic travel corridors/trails, water resources, scientific/educational opportunities, scenic beauty)
1-04	Will BLM develop a plan to protect such values or consider special designations to protect these values?
1-05	There are many areas containing wilderness characteristics that have been previously impacted by a variety of uses.
1-06	Will BLM conduct an inventory of sites for restoration and develop a restoration plan?
1-07	How will these areas be restored to natural conditions?
1-08	How will BLM work with conservation community on implementing and monitoring a restoration plan?
1-09	OHV use is having an unprecedented impact on area.
1-10	How will BLM deal with OHV use in the plan? Will a travel plan be developed in conjunction with the RMP?
1-11	YFO should adopt a "closed unless posted open" OHV policy effective immediately and remaining in place during RMP revision.
1-12	How will BLM address route designations for areas with wilderness characteristics, including ACECs, and other areas with special resources (habitat, species, cultural, scenic, scientific)?
1-13	The Sonoran pronghorn is being impacted by the proliferation of motorized routes.
1-14	Will BLM analyze the effects of roads on Sonoran pronghorn and their habitat and based on this analysis consider closing routes to mitigate the effects of these roads?
1-15	What are the impacts of these routes to water resources?
1-16	The disruption of water flow changes vegetation viability, resulting in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn.
1-17	Migration across the Mexico border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources.
1-18	How will the BLM address international border issues and the consequent impacts to the natural environment?
1-19	Will BLM work in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to address border issues?
1-20	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?
2-01	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
2-02	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
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Appendix B
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Comment No.**	Comment Summary
2-15	What are the impacts of these routes to water resources?
2-16	The disruption of water flow changes vegetation viability, resulting in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn.
2-17	Migration across the Mexico border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources.
2-18	How will the BLM address international border issues and the consequent impacts to the natural environment?
2-19	Will BLM work in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to address border issues?
2-20	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?
2-21	The desert Southwest is the most beautiful part of the US outside of Florida and it is disappearing.
3-01	Loves deserts. They are beautiful and historically untouched but are not receiving the protection they should be.
3-02	Many Americans and internationals spend much money on ecotourism; without protecting local wilderness the local residents in the region could lose income.
3-03	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
3-04	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
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3-09	How will these areas be restored to natural conditions?
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3-15	The Sonoran pronghorn is being impacted by the proliferation of motorized routes.
3-16	Will BLM analyze the effects of roads on Sonoran pronghorn and their habitat and based on this analysis consider closing routes to mitigate the effects of these roads?
3-17	What are the impacts of these routes to water resources?
3-18	The disruption of water flow changes vegetation viability, resulting in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn.
3-19	Migration across the Mexico border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources.
3-20	How will the BLM address international border issues and the consequent impacts to the natural environment?
3-21	Will BLM work in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to address border issues?
3-22	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?
4-01	Protect wilderness areas as the wildlife and its habitat are very precious, but dwindling due to human encroachment.
4-02	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
4-03	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
4-04	How will YFO protect supplemental values (endangered plant/animal species, unique plants, outstanding representations of plant communities, prehistoric/historic travel corridors/trails, water resources, scientific/educational opportunities, scenic beauty)
4-05	Will BLM develop a plan to protect such values or consider special designations to protect these values?
4-06	There are many areas containing wilderness characteristics that have been previously impacted by a variety of uses.

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Comment No.**	Comment Summary
4-07	Will BLM conduct an inventory of sites for restoration and develop a restoration plan?
4-08	How will these areas be restored to natural conditions?
4-09	How will BLM work with conservation community on implementing and monitoring a restoration plan?
4-10	OHV use is having an unprecedented impact on area.
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4-19	How will the BLM address international border issues and the consequent impacts to the natural environment?
4-20	Will BLM work in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to address border issues?
4-21	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?
5-01	The fragile native plants in the southwestern desert need to be protected by the BLM.
5-02	OHV is destroying sensitive plant communities and the wildlife that depend on them.
5-03	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
5-04	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
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5-22	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?

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Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
6-01	Please take the actions necessary to protect this incredible area.
6-02	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
6-03	What will BLM do to assure that wilderness characteristics are protected in BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs?
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6-15	Will BLM analyze the effects of roads on Sonoran pronghorn and their habitat and based on this analysis consider closing routes to mitigate the effects of these roads?
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6-18	Migration across the Mexico border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources.
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6-21	Will other agencies be mandated to consult with BLM and USFWS on environmental impacts as a result of their actions (on the border)?
7-01	How will YFO address Memorandum AZ-2004-021 and identify areas to be designated as management units to be managed for wilderness characteristics?
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7-13	Migration across the Mexico border has created challenges to the protection of natural resources.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
7-14	How will the BLM address international border issues and the consequent impacts to the natural environment?
7-15	Has seen impact on unregulated land development in Arizona including over development, excessive traffic, haze, and looting of cultural sites.
7-16	Preserve this beautiful, archaeologically significant area of Arizona/California.
8-01	Concern regarding future of site at Moon Mountain Road (will it be scraped, will signage be provided if so, will someone with archaeology background be involved).
9-01	Concerned with protection of Blythe Giant Intaglios and other geoglyphs along the Colorado River.
9-02	Visitors should be educated to respect our culture, would help prevent damage to cultural sites (Blythe Intaglio).
9-03	Would like to partner in a stewardship program to preserve cultural sites (Blythe Intaglio), which would include fencing sites to prevent public access.
9-04	Envision these (Blythe Intaglio) sites being designated as a state or national park in the future.
10-01	Opposed to further closure of public land through road closure or wilderness designation, as access to public land has increasingly become limited and it has become difficult for individuals to enjoy public lands due to these closures.
10-02	Agencies have become subject to the desires of the environmentalists and their threats of litigation and public lands are no longer for individuals to enjoy.
10-03	The use of OHV to access remote locations is the best and sometimes only way to enjoy back country areas.
11-01	Protect the wild and wilderness characteristics of the Yuma BLM planning area.
11-02	Limit OHV use as it impacts the quiet of the desert and causes introduction and spread of exotic plants, erosion, wildlife harassment, and destruction of cultural sites.
11-03	Keep all motorized uses very limited to clearly delineated trails or roads that avoid sensitive sites such as riparian areas, bighorn sheep ranges, nesting areas, etc.
11-04	Find all potential wilderness areas and designate accordingly.
11-05	Consult with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition for their recommendations on wilderness areas for designation.
12-01	Enjoys looking at mountains, camping, rock hunting, and 4-wheel driving.
12-02	Enjoys collecting rocks in the area and has not seen anyone abuse the privilege of rock collecting in the area.
13-01	Need to develop at least one landing strip along the lower Colorado River for private pilots to land near recreational opportunities. Could be located near existing recreational development and BLM could attract developers for airport for public use.
13-02	The existing military bases in Yuma should be protected from encroachment. Pilots currently fly in restricted airspace and land illegally on YPG property because there is no designated air strip.
13-03	The dirt road NE of Martinez Lake is used as a landing strip and should be placed off-limits due to safety concerns (not maintained, too close to Cibola Range, numerous obstructions that violate FAA rules, no security).
14-01	More land should be opened along Martinez Lake for activities including boat launching ramps, long term leases for homes, camping areas, community facilities for restaurants, fuel docks, and convenience stores.
14-02	Has leased a residence at Martinez Lake for 3 years but limited property and increase in property and rental fees will exclude all but the very affluent from purchasing in the area.
15-01	BLM should continue to allocate areas for camping with or without RVs.
15-02	RVs, especially those driven by winter visitors, abuse their camping privilege by dumping gray tanks on the land and creating a biohazard and fly infestation.
16-01	All decisions should start with consideration for the needs of wildlife habitat and species.
16-02	A route designation should be the primary effort to manage the rampant travel routes that have been created by migrants and lack of designation.
17-01	Protect these lands and restore them and their ecosystems to their pre-1850 character and integrity as they contain areas of important habitat and cultural sites.
17-02	Increase in OHV use has threatened to eliminate the highest values of the land and the roads created by OHV fragment wildlife zones by disrupting foraging and native vegetation, and increase the risk of wild fire.
17-03	Wholesale development of sensitive desert lands also threatens to eliminate its highest values.
17-04	Recommends wilderness protection through a framework of multiple use conservation areas, including the identification and protection of all lands containing wilderness character through administrative designations and management

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
	provisions.
18-01	Identify lands containing wilderness character and protect them with special administrative designation and management to preserve the wilderness characteristics.
18-02	Designate roads and OHV routes as limited as OHV use scars the land and fragments it to the detriment of wildlife.
18-03	Lands should be designated for recreational uses that have less impact than OHV use, such as hiking and camping.
19-01	Designate roads and OHV routes as limited due to impacts to wildlife and habitat.
19-02	Identify lands containing wilderness character and protect them with special administrative designation and management to preserve the wilderness characteristics.
19-03	Provide for wildlife corridors between YFO lands and PFO lands, particularly Saddle Mountain, Woolsey Peak Wilderness, and Eagletails.
20-01	Values open space for visual solitude, wildlife values, opportunities for public/dispersed recreation, watershed management.
20-02	Important uses are passive recreation (hiking).
20-03	Manage to emphasize conservation to maximize long-term sustained use for greater public benefit.
20-04	Manage to minimize use by OHV, gun enthusiasts, careful grazing, and active oversight of mining.
21-01	Opposes decision to terminate 53-year Pratt family agricultural lease. They have been good stewards, loss of lease can have negative impact on local agricultural economy, and termination will not have significant positive impact on land or its use.
22-01	As a Cooperating Agency, AGFD is interested in developing, reviewing, and coordinating on RMPs and appreciates level of cooperation maintained by the BLM.
22-02	Activities of the AGFD to maintain and enhance wildlife resources and wildlife-related recreation should continue to be considered necessary, authorized, administrative activities in any Management Unit, Special Area Designation, or Land Use Allocation.
22-03	AGFD supports balanced approach to management of public lands to provide both conservation measures to enhance natural/biological resources and recreational and use opportunities.
22-04	AGFD recognizes need to assess and evaluate travel routes within sensitive washes, upland habitats, lambing areas, wintering habitats, and other key areas due to impacts to wildlife by OHV use and habitat fragmentation by roadways.
22-05	AGFD feels it is important they be involved during route planning and designating process to identify important areas for fish and wildlife resources and ensure appropriate access for wildlife-related recreation.
22-06	AGFD could support designating key habitats as long as future conditions acknowledge wildlife as management priority and prescriptions allow for both wildlife management and reasonable public access.
22-07	Concerned additional restrictive management or allocations will hinder AGFD ability to propose/implement wildlife management activities. More proactive wildlife management is required. RMP must be clear when describing management allocations.
23-01	Values wildlife habitat, especially rare/endangered species, remote areas, solitude, wilderness, natural landscapes and ecosystems.
23-02	Important uses are birdwatching, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, somewhere to get away to.
23-03	Manage for responsible and balanced multi-use, for long-term so resources are here for next generation.
23-04	Mining, grazing, and OHV destroy resources. OHV should be restricted to existing roads in all but a few designated areas.
24-01	Values long-term visitor areas as they spend every winter in one. Camping is an important use.
25-01	Values variety of opportunities on public lands and having a place to vacation and relax.
25-02	Important use is waterways for fishing and spending family time.
25-03	Limit future growth by maintaining natural surroundings and preventing some areas from becoming commercialized.
26-01	Sustained use of the land (their lease) for agriculture is most judicious use of land for a variety of reasons. Agriculture production on public land produces revenue for American people through collection of rent rather than expenditure for other uses.
26-02	Birds and animals thrive near agriculture production which provides food and water in harsh desert environment, and visitors to public lands value opportunity to observe nature.
26-03	Production agriculture is consistent with stated mission of BLM to sustain health, diversity, and productivity of public

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
	lands. Taking land out of production decreases diversity of use. Urban sprawl is also consuming farmland.
26-04	Production agriculture is directly references in FLPMA Sec. 1701(a)(12) that public lands be managed in a manner that recognizes nation's need for food and fiber from public lands. Pratt lease produces both.
27-01	Concerned BLM is considering reallocation of agriculture lease (Pratt farm) that has been in production for more than 50 years.
27-02	This area is invaluable to their hybrid seed program, and is one of the few locations in the Southwest that can produce the Topical Cauliflower.
27-03	Pratt family are great stewards of the land as evidenced by improvement of land over last 15 years, shown in diversity of crops and abundance of wildlife you can view there.
27-04	A variety of wildlife depends on the food produced there, including many large mammals and migratory birds. Altering the ecosystem in the area would have a negative impact.
28-01	Mineral resources provide important benefits to society and the economy and there should be more investigation of geology and economic resources.
28-02	There should be no more closures or withdrawal.
29-01	Values wildlife and potential for sensible multiple use.
29-02	Important uses are hunting, hiking, and camping.
29-03	Management should include a wise application of current conservation practices to maintain, enhance, and restore wildlife populations.
29-04	Supports multiple use and conservation but opposes preservation.
30-01	Submits mailing request on behalf of their client, who was unaware of scoping meetings.
30-02	Client holds an interest in the grazing allotment, Clem Allotment, and would like to be consulted prior to any definitive plans or alternatives are considered that would implement changes to that allotment.
30-03	Because grazing has been administered by the PFO coordination with that office is also warranted.
31-01	Values beauty, rocks, plants, wildlife.
31-02	Uses area to take pictures, collect rocks, day outings.
31-03	Management should keep all roads open so everyone can enjoy the area, but keep only certain roads (including sand dunes) open to 4WD and ATVs because they badly damage the roads.
32-01	Recommend obtaining a copy of the planning criteria used by the BLM Moab and Monti Fos, which provide a good set of guidelines for RMP planning efforts.
32-02	Socioeconomic analysis should include consideration of economic benefits to local and regional economy through wildlife-related recreation and ecosystems services.
32-03	Socioeconomic analysis should consider economic drain of public lands livestock grazing on federal agency and taxpayer money including cost of damage caused by non-native organisms that are introduced thru grazing or oil/gas development.
32-04	Management of WSAs should ensure protection and preservation of their wilderness values from destructive activities such as oil/gas development, logging, OHV, mining, and other harmful uses.
32-05	Standards and Guidelines for Public health are only general. RMP should provide clear baseline measurements and compare them with recent measurements before making determinations about elements affected by plan.
32-06	RMP should include standards by which uses will be modified to prevent damage to soils, range, wildlife, and watersheds during drought.
32-07	Examine water availability/use in all watersheds to determine how much water is going to various uses and how much left intact. Info should be available prior to decisions for specific actions, and standards in place to ensure enough water for wildlife.
32-08	RFD scenarios must include ecological concerns, not just historical, existing, and projected levels of development. RFD in RMP must be conservative.
32-09	Assessment of additional ACECs should be included in the planning criteria, as ACECs should be established to provide protection for sensitive plants & wildlife. This includes assessment of all state or federally listed species for ACEC designation.
32-10	Species of particular concern (for ACEC designation) include Sonoran pronghorn, which is threatened by livestock grazing, road construction, and OHV use.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
32-11	ACEC should also be designated for Sonoran desert tortoise, which is harmed by livestock grazing, OHV, and other habitat destruction.
32-12	Current ACECs should be protected from land uses that conflict with their values (oil/gas leasing, livestock grazing, OHV use).
32-13	Include full range of alternatives including no grazing, grazing at current use, and grazing reductions that ensure wildlife, watershed, vegetative, soil health. Also alternatives with no new oil/gas leasing, and leasing to ensure resource health.
32-14	Add planning criterion that requires all alternatives be biologically and ecologically sustainable, meets ESA and other protection statutes, ensures each alternative meets needs of native plant/wildlife, includes rigorous monitoring of sensitive species.
32-15	Add planning criteria that recognizes importance of predators in native ecosystems and do not cede authority to other agencies or parties to lethally control predators. Adopt strict policies against predator control.
32-16	Do not allow application of herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, or other toxicants which would cause ecological harm. Rodents are important and some wildlife depend on invertebrates for prey. Address root causes of land disturbances and noxious weeds.
32-17	Land disposals should be limited as they generally lead to less protection of flora/fauna. Should be considered in terms of landownership patterns (consolidation of federal lands) that facilitates management for flora/fauna.
32-18	BLM lands with Sonoran desert tortoise or pronghorn habitat or occurrences should not be disposed or exchanged.
32-19	Add planning criterion the adoption of a precautionary approach that if uncertain, errs on the side of conservation.
33-01	Leases and farms BLM land between the levee and the Colorado River and feels this agricultural use is the best and most productive alternative for the land.
33-02	Taking land out of production would revert it back to underbrush and salt cedars. This benefits no one and causes negative effect by complicating Border Patrol efforts to secure that area. Farming activities in the area acts as deterrent to illegal entry.
34-01	Values public access, farm leases that provide stable habitat, income from those leases.
34-02	Continued use of public land for agriculture production and grazing is important. Does not want to spend money to provide habitat when the farm land does it while also producing income.
34-03	If lands along river need improving allow private entities a chance by providing long-term developmental leases like the Indians have been doing.
34-04	Arizona has much public land but not enough tax base. Should improve income to the system by increasing leases not eliminating them.
35-01	Values original beauty and freedom of use by horseback, riding existing trails, ridges, washes, Indian trails. Uses area for horseback riding and walking.
35-02	Horseback riding and ATV use should not be in the same category because horses cause little damage and ATVs cause much, long-lasting damage.
35-03	Horse activities should not be limited to roads and washes. When rains wash all dirt out of washes it leaves only large rocks that can hurt horses.
35-04	Permits for horse rides should be issued at least 2 weeks before a ride instead of at the last minute.
36-01	Values accessible recreation and uses area for horseback riding.
36-02	Area should be managed for multi-use, with control of the ATVs because they destroy the land and cause irreversible damage, while horse trails disappear.
37-01	Values the natural state of the area and the absence of people and development.
37-02	Uses the area for its scenery, hiking, and camping.
37-03	Area should be managed to keep out sheep, cattle, power plants, oil exploration, new roads. Need cleaner air.
38-01	Designation and protection of areas containing wilderness characteristics will prevent long-term and irreversible damage.
38-02	The designation of OHV use as "limited to existing roads and trails" is unclear and a policy of "closed unless posted open" should be implemented to allow for use of public lands in environmentally responsible manner.
39-01	Values wide open spaces, solitude, beauty of desert and mountains, river views. Bridal paths are fine for the city but not for riding through the countryside.
39-02	Uses area for horseback trail rides (has been riding in Cibola area for 50 years), wildlife viewing, camping.
39-03	Manage area with perspective of less is more. The negative management of the area is restricting freedom and enjoyment

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
	of natural resources. BLM management has not improved despite surveys and draft plans.
40-01	Values that land is for everyone to enjoy. Should be kept for future generations to enjoy.
40-02	Activities should coincide with the surroundings and not harm the land. Provide educational opportunities so visitors can learn how to preserve and enjoy the land. Manage land with care and intelligence.
40-03	Public land has dwindled to allow more growth. Businesses and public land should come together to increase public use.
41-01	Would like to see more BLM lands and specifically the Yuma resource area designated as protected wilderness to preserve for future generations and protect against abusive land use. This includes the elimination of all off-road and mechanized recreation.
41-02	This designation would encourage a broader attitude towards stewardship, usage, and interaction with the land.
42-01	Protect the lands designated and identified by their wilderness characteristics.
42-02	Lands under consideration should remain closed to OHV unless posted as explicitly open.
43-01	Protect the wilderness characteristics of our public lands to they will be preserved for future generations.
43-02	Designate roads and OHV routes as "limited" within the planning area as ATVs are impacting public lands. If these lands are to be preserved OHV use must be limited.
44-01	Preserve the wilderness characteristics of Arizona's federal lands and consider as much acreage as possible for wilderness designation so intact wilderness is left for future generations.
44-02	Limit OHV access and routes on the remaining federal land in Arizona because of their impacts to the ecology and ambiance of public lands.
45-01	Wilderness areas are important, offer visitors opportunity to enjoy solitude, remoteness, a spiritual connection with the land without distraction of motorized vehicles. Also allows current and future generations to experience primitive state of land.
45-02	Designate roads and OHV routes to "limited" within the planning area.
45-03	Identify lands with wilderness character and protect them with special administrative designation and management to preserve those characteristics.
46-01	Values non-motorized recreation, which provides important family time, open space, wildlife habitat, quiet, clear skies.
46-02	Land should be managed for maximum protection on-the-ground including better protection for flat-tailed horned lizards and habitat.
46-03	OHV use should be further limited, not expanded, as should roads and guzzlers.
47-01	Values ability to enjoy beauty and history of previous dwellers while riding on trails (both cultural and livestock).
47-02	Important use is the ability to use trails for horseback riding and hiking, in a family or large group, without being told where they can or cannot ride. Has used area for years and knows more about it than the BLM rangers.
47-03	Trail riders should not be restricted as they do not damage the area and help keep the trails open.
47-04	Control should be placed on OHV as they tear up and scar the terrain. They should not be allowed to travel cross country and should be limited to the sand dunes, washes, and established roads.
47-05	Does not understand why the lands are called "public lands" if they are closed or have unrealistic guidelines. No point in preserving area if people can't enjoy it. Preserve wildlife by maintaining and building water areas instead.
48-01	Values the natural beauty and wildlife.
48-02	Important uses are hiking and camping for recreation and education for future generations.
48-03	Area should be managed by educated and professional people with both the natural inhabitants and people in mind.
49-01	Values that these areas are an integral part of the western States and economy. Under multiple use their beauty can be enjoyable.
49-02	Important uses are forage for wildlife and food, and animals, timber, and mineral harvest that is essential for USA needs.
49-03	Manage for healthy resources for greatest low-impact production by those dependent on resources for a living. Following environmentalist theories has proven fallacy of "non-use". Return management to those dependent on resources with reasonable oversight.
50-01	Value lands undeveloped condition and chance to camp, hike, hunt, etc.
50-02	Biggest concern is for habitat. Wildlife habitat enhancing activities must continue.
51-01	Values big leases which are also valuable to BLM, income supports farmers and BLM. The farmland should also be left alone because the farmers feed a lot of animals and the bird hunters like it.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
51-02	Manage with common sense and respect for all people.
52-01	If public is denied use of land then they aren't "public lands", they are really government-owned lands owned contrary to constitutional edict.
52-02	Would like no changes in current policy unless the changes involve turning over more land for sale or private uses.
53-01	Values public access for all recreational activities including OHV, grazing, mining, hunting, fishing.
53-02	Important uses are surface mining, studying nature, and grazing, which provides food resources and employment.
53-03	Manage by isolation of the specific resource and not limited access to general public for an entire area. Maintain strict adherence to the principals of EAR Tile 43 Sec. 2408.0-02 "Objectives".
54-01	Mailing list correction.
55-01	Values the area as a resource for scientists and important uses are for geologic field studies for professional activities and interest.
55-02	Keep most of roads open so geologists don't have to hike long distances to visit all areas.
56-01	Values the historical evidence of man's ancient and modern use (intaglios, old living sites, Patton's army sites), unique beauty of desert, availability of roads leading to springs, canyons, interesting valleys such as Crystal Hills and Burro Canyon.
56-02	Area should be managed with concern for protection and preservation of natural landscape and artifacts, and supervision of human activity both commercial and recreational.
56-03	Concerned with number of tracks alongside existing roads created by OHVs whose wheel width doesn't conform to ruts made by standard vehicles.
57-01	Family has accessed BLM land for four generations to hunt, fish, and camp. Values accessibility and wants future generations to have access public land by OHV.
57-02	Uses area to hunt, fish, camp, jeep, spend family recreation time without distractions of being in town.
57-03	Manage with common sense. Don't be threatened by environmental groups and their biased research. Leave areas open and prosecute those who willingly destroy land.
58-01	Consider managing areas for the protection of wilderness characteristics.
58-02	Damage from OHV intrusions into remote areas and the proliferation of trails indicates the need to preserve large, non-motorized areas for nature and solitude.
58-03	These lands maintain populations of desert bighorn sheep and other diminishing species. Eagletail Mtns. WA is critical to bighorn in other areas. Maintaining species sustainability is BLM's responsibility regardless of district office planning boundaries.
58-04	Arizona residents vote to preserve State lands as non-motorized recreation areas but rural communities cannot participate in these preservation efforts, so the BLM is responsible for preserving public lands in natural conditions.
58-05	Preserving wilderness characteristics is best economic choice as development, maintenance, restoration, law enforcement fro OHV is costly. Restoration is also costly, preservation now is cheaper.
58-06	There are many private opportunities for motor sports, but public has few options to hike, ride horses, picnic, bird watch, or visit public lands with no power lines, vehicle tracks, and damaged cultural sites. Other non-motorized areas see many visitors.
59-01	Values open space and scientific potential and uses area for scientific research, hiking, camping.
59-02	Manage for scientific opportunities like in New Mexico.
60-01	Values lands and that they are open to public use and enjoyment. Would like to see lands remain open to public use without extensive restrictions, but realizes some controls are necessary.
60-02	Uses lands for dispersed recreation including hiking, camping, hunting, back road touring, etc.
60-03	Would like to incorporation transportation needs into planning process and efforts.
61-01	Remove from mailing list.
62-01	Values being able to use land for recreation, picking up rocks, and being able to go almost anywhere as long as they aren't disturbing the terrain or wildlife.
62-02	Uses land for driving on roads and washes, hiking, prospecting for interesting rocks.
62-03	Manage land so everyone may enjoy it without destroying it. There has to be a balance between different user groups. The idea of wilderness areas is nice, but would only benefit a few who are fit enough to hike into remote areas.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
63-01	Values that lands offer freedom for everyone to enjoy natural surroundings and habitat. Land is open to everyone, rich and poor.
63-02	Uses land for camping, hiking, exploring.
63-03	Would like to see land managed by knowledgeable rangers who can teach people about the natural environment. Use other people to police dump stations and trash so the rangers can do their jobs.
63-04	BLM approved vendors who provide water, dumping, and RV repairs should have another way of advertising besides posting on a small, crowded message board.
64-01	Values nature's beauty, small animal homes, ability to see for miles without obstruction of buildings.
64-02	Uses area for day or two getaways, camping, visiting old homestead sites, education on history.
64-03	Manage lands to leave them as they are. Has visited area for 65 years and was here during WWII when there were soldiers camped in fox holes all around their house.
65-01	Remove from mailing list.
66-01	Norton's April 2003 settlement was unlawful and will be overturned. FLPMA gives BLM authority to create WSAs. AWC will be submitting wilderness proposals by winter 2004 for lands containing wilderness characteristics for incorporation in EIS.
66-02	Protection of wilderness quality lands can help fill mandates of FLPMA and provide better balance of multiple uses because only 2.6 percent of BLM land is currently protected as wilderness.
66-03	In inventorying areas for wilderness characteristics the definition of wilderness as outlined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 should be used.
66-04	A YFO wide inventory and OHV designations should be completed. All areas with wilderness characteristics should be managed under "closed" OHV designation.
66-05	In YFO supplemental values could include Sonoran pronghorn habitat, cultural sites, T&E species, unique plant assemblages, prehistoric/historic travel corridors/trails, water resources, potential scientific sites, education, scenic beauty.
66-06	In identifying wilderness characteristics consider how protecting or managing for these characteristics will help a previously impacted area be restored to natural condition.
66-07	BLM should inventory following areas for wilderness characteristics: BLM lands adjacent to Kofa NWR Wilderness Areas, Columbus Peak, Cortez Peak, and all areas adjacent to existing YFO WAs.
66-08	BLM should not degrade wilderness characteristics without analyzing possibility that they exist in in course of implementing any management action through the RMP.
66-09	Complete OHV route designation process and have a mix of areas closed to OHV use and limited to designated roads and trails. Adopt a policy of closed until posted open. Due to sensitive ecosystems and soils should be no open areas within planning unit.
66-10	Analyze effects of roads on Sonoran pronghorn habitat. Consider closing roads to mitigate effects of disruption of natural sheet flow of water, which changes vegetation and results in impacts to forage for Sonoran pronghorn
67-01	Remove from mailing list.
68-01	Most valuable resources are archaeological sites, they are priceless and irreplaceable.
68-02	Important uses are visitation and proper recording of trails, geoglyphs, and rock art.
68-03	Management should strive to record and protect sites by signing, employee visits, volunteer/site steward monitoring. Public should be informed of public ownership of archaeological resources and what they are.
69-01	Keep in recreation for public use and manage area as it is now.
70-01	Values that land is available to the public for hunting and camping.
70-02	There should be no changes in current regulations and availability and areas should be left as they currently exist.
71-01	Values natural resources, they should be managed for benefit and use of public. Recreation, cultural, and natural resource management is important to the public.
71-02	Provide recreational and cultural opportunities for the public at the least reasonable cost.
71-03	Keep the LTVAs open.
71-04	Cultural resources should be managed for preservation.
71-05	Mining and grazing should be controlled.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
72-01	Mailing list request.
73-01	Public lands are very valuable and important uses are hiking and exploring the wilderness areas.
73-02	Management is getting better.
74-01	Values the stark, desolate beauty of the area and the ability to be in the wild and alone in nature.
74-02	Resources should be managed in an environmentally friendly way and preserved in a natural state for all generations.
75-01	Values that the land belongs to all citizens no matter where they live, but many users need to realize that not all uses are appropriate for all acres of BLM land.
75-02	Important uses are hunting, preservation of archaeological sites, passive camping, a place to get away from the noise and people to enjoy the quiet and beauty of the landscape.
75-03	Manage with care. Find a way to prevent the damage to all resources from OHV users who think they can go anywhere and designate the river corridor as natural resource area, wildlife habitat, ACEC, etc. rather than general use/recreation area.
76-01	Public lands are our natural resources and should be managed for multiple use, including OHV, mining, and grazing.
77-01	Everyone should be able to enjoy various outdoor activities on public land because not everyone can own their own land. Public access should not be further restricted, because there would be no point in having public land.
77-02	Important uses are OHV, camping, sand dunes west of Yuma.
78-01	Values the beauty of land and ability to use for outdoor family activities, hunting, camping, sightseeing.
78-02	Public access makes these activities possible and roads and washes should remain open to vehicles with no changes in current management plan.
78-03	If anyone thinks this area should be designated as wilderness they should visit the other 90 unused wilderness areas available to them (refers to attached map).
79-01	Values ecological values including unique plant and wildlife species, low-impact recreation.
79-02	Important activities are habitat values for wildlife, hiking, camping, research.
79-03	Would like to see most protective management possible for traditional, natural, and cultural resources. Scientific information should be the guide.
80-01	Mailing list request.
81-01	Mailing list request.
82-01	Values the remoteness and isolation and public access for 4WD, hunting, fishing, target shooting, camping.
82-02	Manage to retain limited use designation to allow continued public access and no more wilderness designation or land grabs.
83-01	Values the ability to use public lands for outdoor sports, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, etc.
83-02	Manage for continued multiple use including grazing, lumbering, and mining.
83-03	Provide access to public lands, some access is blocked by private holdings.
84-01	Values lands for their beauty and serenity.
84-02	Important uses are hunting, camping, sightseeing, and the ability to do so off the main road and without further closures.
84-03	Current management is fine. We don't need to deny access to more lands and access should be maintained through washes and existing roads for current users and future generations. Has used area for 50 years.
85-01	Values public land because it is available to all, young, old, rich, and poor.
85-02	Important uses are camping and riding ATVs to see wildlife, scenery, and old mining areas. ATV access is important because husband is disabled and the ATV allows him to access more areas.
85-03	Provide list of rules on camping and ATV riding regionally in gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. to keep people on trails and make the rules more accessible to everyone.
85-04	Understands charging a fee for LTVA because services cost money, but user fees only hurt the poor. People shouldn't have to pay to use their own land.
85-05	There are not enough rangers, especially during the crowded months of January and February. More rangers could help prevent destruction and thoughtlessness.
86-01	Values public lands because they have a special history to Native Americans.
86-02	It is important that people use lands to preserve same uses for future generations and protect wild scenic areas, limit vehicles, scavenging, and desecrating fragile ecosystem.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
86-03	Should be managed with long-range goals to protect and preserve for future generations.
87-01	Lands belong to all the public and there should be free access to the public except for development. The lands should never be restricted to a point where they can only be enjoyed by few or none.
87-02	There should be no changes to the current management.
87-03	Has been a local resident for over 50 years and knows of nothing good that has come of BLM management.
88-01	Complete a wilderness inventory and designate suitable areas as wilderness. If not allowed under current policy identify areas with wilderness values and protect under categories allowed under current administration.
88-02	Restrict vehicles to existing authorized routes to prevent damage to wildlife habitat and wilderness values. Plan routes for different modes of travel for public recreation (different place for trail bikes so they don't conflict with cars).
89-01	Values the peace and quiet of the area except when the hunters are there.
89-02	Uses the area for fishing and frogging.
89-03	Would like to see the faces of the BLM employees.
89-04	Some people who own land in the area let the hunters kill over their quota, the hunters should be checked on.
90-01	Values that the land is open to the public for all recreational uses.
90-02	Because they are getting older it is important to have places to ride ATVs and hunt. Access restriction should be kept to what is only absolutely necessary.
91-01	Values that public has use of lands without restrictions.
91-02	Uses area for camping.
91-03	Area should be managed in a manner that allows public more use, with the necessary controls.
91-04	Would like to see more restrictions on ATVs as they tear up the desert.
92-01	Values the recreational opportunities in the area and uses area for rock and mineral collecting because it is a family activity with educational value.
92-02	Recreational activities should be permitted to the extent they do not adversely affect higher priorities in the management plan.
93-01	Important activities are for economic development, including developing natural resources.
94-01	Mailing list request.
95-01	Values are for natural open space, wildlife habitat, primitive (non-motorized) recreation, scenic beauty.
95-02	Important uses are hiking, camping, studying geology and cultural resources for recreation and education.
95-03	Manage area to preserve rather than consume the resources and with the least possible disturbance.
96-01	Values wildness, mystery, discovery, and diversity, which must be preserved for the future.
96-02	Important uses are non-consumptive, which best preserves life for the future. Consumptive uses need to be curtailed and phased out.
96-03	Manage for preservation, enforcement with trained educators and monitors, integration of non-consumptive users to protect resources, restoration of mining and toxins (pond areas), and historical diversity including migratory sheep routes.
96-04	Eliminate domestic grazing and monitor road use and illegal OHV activity as they bring invasive species.
97-01	Values that public lands offer opportunity for local citizens and visitors to recreate or just enjoy natural beauty.
97-02	Uses are for hiking, camping, boating, fishing.
97-03	Management should continue as it is currently.
98-01	Values open space, wilderness, remoteness, scientific research, hiking.
98-02	Important uses are hiking, biking, and birding.
98-03	Area should be managed for future generations.
98-04	Take cattle off of public lands and allow no OHVs.
99-01	Values and uses area for hunting, camping, OHV.
99-02	There should be less closures to roads and trails.
100-01	Values beauty, natural and cultural resources, vastness, that public lands are for everyone to enjoy.
100-02	Important uses are hiking, camping, outdoor recreating, solitude.
100-03	Manage to include designated, signed hiking trails. Use an active site stewardship program. Preserve and protect lands for future generations.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
100-04	BLM should conduct an EIS anytime drilling or mining concerns are involved.
101-01	Values functioning ecosystems that preserve biodiversity and sustain health of the environment. A healthy environment sustains human systems.
101-02	Important uses are recreational hiking, research into ecosystems.
101-03	Manage resources to protect biodiversity, all other aspects of management should be secondary.
102-01	Mailing list request.
103-01	Mailing list request.
104-01	Values everything about public land, the open spaces, plants, animals, opportunity to ride horses.
104-02	Important uses are camping, trail riding, hiking.
104-03	Need more prosecution of violators, such as for illegal dumping.
104-04	Doesn't want to lose usage to build more places like Wellton Hills #1 and #2 and Coyote Wash .
105-01	Values the freedom to access the land at any time, BLM land should be kept open.
105-02	Important use is photography of wildlife, plants, rock formations.
105-03	There should be more employees or rangers to stop illegal dumping and vandalism.
106-01	Values access to public lands for a variety of uses.
106-02	Important uses are recreation, hunting, grazing, and mining for economic benefit.
106-03	Some regulation of public land is necessary but the fewer restrictions the better. Public land without access is useless and there should be more access to wilderness areas by vehicles.
107-01	Values open spaces and the room to have fun.
107-02	Important uses are OHV, camping, rock hounding.
107-03	Manage area with regard to all people, not just environmentalists.
108-01	Values accessibility to nature and it is important to use it before availability is taken away by environmentalists.
108-02	Area should be managed as it is currently and access is already as limited as it needs to be, should not be changed.
109-01	Values freedom of access for recreation, sports, and certain business activities.
109-02	Important uses are camping, picnicking, hunting, mining because the land belongs to the people.
109-03	Area should be managed to allow as few restrictions to human access as possible. Practice sensible conservation based on true science. Three of the BLM's own scientists have proven that human access is not a problem with endangered species.
110-01	Values that there are 1.2 million acres of public land and they should accommodate as many uses as possible without destruction.
110-02	Manage area to preserve for future generations.
111-01	Values Lower Colorado River corridor because it provides valuable aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat for federal and state listed T&E species.
111-02	Important uses are the management of existing natural habitats and restoration of additional acreage of riparian and wetland habitat.
111-03	Management should provide more emphasis on protection of riparian and wetland habitat, and close coordination with USFWS, CDFG, AGFD. Also should be an emphasis on wild horse/burro control and management.
111-04	Ensure the RMP includes recognition of the LCRMSCP and that BLM is a member of that planning process.
112-01	Values recreation and important uses are camping, riding ATVs.
112-02	Area should be managed to be open for all users.
113-01	Important uses are recreational, but as a concessionaire all uses are of interest.
113-02	Area should be managed with concern on how it deals with the desert community. Also consider that summer and winter visitors have different needs and mind sets.
114-01	Remove from mailing list.
115-01	Values access to public lands.
115-02	Important uses are exploring old mines, prospecting, and nature walks.
115-03	Area should be managed without over doing regulations and wilderness areas.
116-01	Values hunting and camping.
116-02	Area should be managed as they are at present.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
117-01	Likes to hunt, camp, enjoy nature in general and would like future generations to enjoy the same uses.
117-02	Closing the land and making it wilderness isn't really managing it. They don't abuse the land and neither do other users they know, only a few people ruin it for others.
118-01	Mailing list request.
119-01	Values wildlife, quiet, solitude, rare plants, cultural resources.
119-02	Important uses are wilderness, good wildlife habitat, hiking, non-motorized recreation.
119-03	Manage for maximum conservation and protection. No new roads, guzzlers, disposal or exchanges, less OHVs. Better protection need for flat-tailed horned lizard.
120-01	Mailing list request.
121-01	Values this land because they own a home and live on it.
121-02	Supports land exchange for Harvey's Fishing hole.
122-01	Uses this land to live on, they own a home on the public lands.
122-02	Area should be managed as it currently is with no changes.
122-03	Resolve the land exchange for Harvey's Fishing hole.
123-01	Mailing list request.
124-01	Mailing list request.
125-01	Values area for openness, not seeing roof tops just open views of nature for miles, peace and quiet.
125-02	Manage area to prevent over building, maintain open views and quiet.
126-01	Values open space and free access to public lands. Preserving access is critical.
126-02	Uses area for hiking, camping, animal watching, photography.
126-03	Manage to recognize ecosystems, wildlife requirements, protect water resources from over use.
127-01	Values beauty, habitat for wildlife, natural state of area.
127-02	Uses area for hiking, botanizing, birdwatching.
127-03	Manage area independently of political pressure.
128-01	Important uses are future transportation requirements and the impact on public lands.
129-01	Values area because they are public lands to be enjoyed by everyone.
129-02	Important uses are recreational, boating, camping, hiking.
129-03	Manage to maintain a balance between recreational and biodiversity needs.
130-01	Values open setting, natural environment, historic and archaeological sites.
130-02	Manage to stop OHV and development, avoid traditional cultural properties, inventory and protect archaeological sites, educate the public on past human use of area.
131-01	Values lands because of public access.
131-02	Important uses are hiking, fishing, camping.
131-03	Manage for more revegetation and controlled burns to control non-native species. Sears Point needs to be protected.
132-01	Values that the land is open to public use at various times and hours.
132-02	Important uses are fishing, hiking, enjoying wildlife.
132-03	Manage in a clean and orderly fashion. The confluence needs to be cleaned up and maintained in a safe fashion.
133-01	Mailing list request.
134-01	Values the pristine environment as it provides peace and serenity for OHV rides to observe flora and fauna, an educational tool.
134-02	As part of management would like to see BLM take over water catchments. For example, Scott's Lead Well off BLM 249 is often empty and there is no other catchments for wildlife in the area.
135-01	Values land for and feels important uses are native seed/plant resources, seed banking, and industrial expansion opportunities for landlocked towns.
135-02	Would like to see land managed to provide more scientific and cultural opportunities. Make land available for university research for native plants and cultural plants to treat diabetes.
136-01	Values open spaces and wildlife.
136-02	Uses area for hunting, fishing, rock hounding.
136-03	Area should be managed in a people friendly manner. Don't arbitrarily close areas to public use, especially camping.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
137-01	Values public land because it represents free ownership of common property for all citizens.
137-02	Important uses are camping, hunting, hiking, ATV.
137-03	Land should be managed more by the public and less by the federal government. There should be no fees for use of any public land, any existing fees should be eliminated.
138-01	Values area for open space.
138-02	Uses area for recreation, ATV.
138-03	Manage area to keep big business out.
139-01	Values the natural beauty of the area. Should be used to educate and draw other people to the area.
139-02	Uses area for hiking, rock hunting, painting scenery.
139-03	Area should be managed through a central office with a local representative. They have no person in the area to approach and would like to see it easier for La Paz County residents to communicate with BLM.
140-01	Values that the public can use the land, but more information on how to be able to use them should be available.
140-02	Important uses are gold mining, access to the land, OHV exploring.
140-03	Manage area with common sense.
141-01	Values public lands because they are open for all to use and enjoy.
141-02	Uses area for hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, but many places are no longer accessible.
141-03	The area is being managed well but would like to see no more closures and would like the BLM land within Quartzsite town limits opened to development by the town.
142-01	Values being a claim holder and a small miner in the area, prospecting is an important use.
142-02	Don't change the current management.
142-03	Find a way to control the ATVs. It isn't the ATVs that destroy the desert it's the small percentage of users that have no respect.
143-01	Has lived in area entire life and values being able to use the land and that future generations will also be able to use land.
143-02	Important uses are all open roads, trails, and dry washes.
143-03	Manage area as it has been for past several years with no more wilderness designation or anything like that. Let BLM manage land and AGFD manage wildlife.
144-01	Values the uses and management as it is today. There should be no changes to management and no more wilderness or wilderness characteristics.
144-02	Roads, trails, and dry washes need to remain open.
145-01	Values being able to use and access the lands and all activities and management should remain as it is now.
146-01	Values and feels important uses are that the lands are open to all shooting legal in Arizona including use of legally owned class III weapons, camping and travel on all roads, trails, and dry washes should stay open with no closures.
146-02	Land belongs to the public in trust, not to the BLM and should be managed as such.
147-01	Values freedom to use the land the way they are now and doesn't want management or anything to change.
147-02	Important uses are hunting, fishing, full access.
148-01	Values open public access for hunting, fishing, camping. Historic access and uses also important.
148-02	Manage area with no additional restrictions. Public or vehicular access should not be further restricted in any way.
148-03	Need additional law enforcement to address illegal entry and trash dumping on public lands.
149-01	Values area for camping, hunting, fishing.
149-02	Management should change nothing.
149-03	Need to enforce illegal dumping and use do not litter campaigns.
150-01	Values access by sportsman and public and feels access for outdoor activities such as hunting and camping is important.
150-02	Access and management should stay the same.
151-01	Values that lands are available for public use for many various activities. The lands belong to the people and they need to reflect public opinion.
151-02	Important uses are hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing, spending time with family.
151-03	BLM should manage the land, AGFD should manage the wildlife and recreation relating to wildlife. Improve habitat where possible.
151-04	Keep vehicular access the same.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
151-05	There should be no more wilderness areas, there are enough already.
152-01	Values being able to take his family to the area to see what he has seen.
152-02	Important uses are observing wildlife, recreation, OHV, camping.
152-03	Management should be left as it is. Wants the uses to remain the same for future generations.
153-01	Values being able to access the land and enjoy it with family and friends.
153-02	Important uses are hunting, fishing, camping, vehicular access.
153-03	Wants future generations to enjoy uses he currently enjoys and would like to see land managed as they currently are without further restrictions to public. These are our public lands.
154-01	Values being able to enjoy the outdoors for important uses such as hunting, fishing, camping, exploring trails.
154-02	Manage land as it is with no further restrictions, public lands should be able to be used.
155-01	There should be better protection of sensitive and critical wildlife habitat and a better balance between recreation and natural resource protection.
155-02	OHV trails keep expanding and lengthening without any control or enforcement.
156-01	Values accessibility for enjoyment of area and uses such as nature study, hunting, fishing, travel, placement of honey bees.
156-02	Commercial use should be paid for by BLM.
156-03	In the Wellton area there should be more control of bulldozing soil to other areas. Trash should also be better controlled.
157-01	Values hunting, fishing, ranching, mining, public access, multiple use of our natural heritage.
157-02	Area should be managed for multiple use and public access.
158-01	Values that lands stay open to the public and the roads stay as they are including access to the washes. It is public land, and you should not be made to feel you will be ticked if parked off the road.
158-02	All uses are important and if roads are closed the public can no longer easily access and use the land.
158-03	Management should include protection of cultural resources but access must still be provided for the public to enjoy them.
159-01	The Squall Lake boat parking area needs to be enlarged. There should be an overflow area for parking and provisions for larger boats and travelers.
160-01	Values cultural resources and feel they are more important than providing services to OHVs. The petroglyphs and geoglyphs are irreplaceable and very valuable to Native Americans.
160-02	Uses area for camping.
160-03	Manage area to protect cultural resources, even if that means fencing off Sears Point. Petroglyphs and geoglyphs need better protection. Any exploitation needs to stop.
160-04	People who violate BLM laws or posted signs should be heavily fined and prosecuted. ATVs should be banned.
161-01	Do not fence natural water holes. They should be available to all animals including the burros.
162-01	Values public and agency access. The lands can't be used, enjoyed, perpetuated, managed without access.
162-02	Management should protect, preserve, fence off cultural resources and open up all areas designated as wilderness or monument.
162-03	Remove all wild burros and horses.
163-01	Values open space, having an area to walk around without concern for being run over.
163-02	Manage area to keep it open. Designate it as multi-use for everyone.
163-03	Keep an area of the dunes for hiking only.
164-01	Values environmental stability, restoration, public access, appropriate recreation. Good for the community and the individual.
164-02	Important uses include hiking, bird watching, etc.
165-01	Leads tours for various groups including retirees and handicap persons. Too much public land has been closed to all except a chosen few. Illegal immigrants cross and destroy the land, but regular citizens are denied vehicular access.
165-02	Reopen inland road between Sears Point to Independence Point and reopen the river road from Sears Point via Independence Point to Howard Well and Aztec I8 interchange. The walk to Independence is too far for most.
165-03	In KOFAs reopen Slumgullion Pass and road from Queen Canyon to Wilbanks Road to again make these easy day trips and provide access aside from hiking.

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
165-04	In Red Cloud Mine area reopen river road between Black Rock and Red Cloud Washes and road into Arasta Wash. Other sites have access and have not been destroyed. Also remove or unlock gate between Imperial and Cibola NWR.
165-05	On California side of Colorado River reopen roads between Ogilby Road and State Hwy 78 to the river. The recreational benefits of these roads was not assessed prior to their closure.
166-01	Identify lands with wilderness characteristics and study for designation as wilderness. If Norton's policy prohibits designation use other tools to identify and protect wilderness values. The Norton policy will likely be overturned.
166-02	Indicate in RMP which areas are open to motor vehicle use and which are closed. Stop travel along unauthorized routes, which causes habitat fragmentation and vegetation damage. Limit vehicles to only authorized routes.
167-01	Submits suggestions for preferred alternative. BLM should manage land and AGFD should manage wildlife, and wildlife recreation including hunting. Cooperative habitat improvement projects should continue between BLM and AGFD.
167-02	All open trails, roads, and dry washes should remain open for public vehicular access.
167-03	There should be no wilderness management prescriptions outside of designated wilderness.
167-04	All alternatives in the RMP, particularly the preferred, must be reasonable, consistent with a conservative approach, and reflect mutual agreement of statutory agencies.
167-05	Alt. A should be no action, Alt. B should be most restrictive and hands-off preservation, Alt. C should be least restrictive and hand on conservation, preferred alt. Should be mix of A and C.
167-06	Concerned with management for wilderness characteristics. Feel that although BLM can't create new WSAs, managing for wilderness characteristics creates new wilderness without congressional approval and in violation of congressional intent.
168-01	Have received copy of letter from Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club and the City of Yuma fully supports their position on the planning effort.
169-01	Is interested in having waterfront access to the Colorado River. Wants BLM to develop long-term lease or recommendation for shore side areas for homes. Home values are very high and would like to be able to afford land.
170-01	Mailing list request. Wants copy of DEIS and RMP.
171-01	Interested in process, how contracts are awarded, and how the public will be involved in the process. Would like the public to be involved earlier.
171-02	Wanted to know if the Sonoran Institute would be used for the economic workshop.
172-01	It is good RMP is being updated to address current issues. RMP should be based on current laws and completed in cooperation with pertinent state, local, and tribal governments.
172-02	Emphasizes RMP studies must be compliant with BLM Land Use Planning Handbook and summarizes requirements.
172-03	Include development of energy minerals and related issues. Identify future proposed mineral leasing areas and areas not suited. Identify future utility corridors. Existing corridors should be used instead of new ones. No amendments for future corridors.
172-04	All unique areas of sensitive lands and resources should be analyzed and decisions made regarding special management designations.
172-05	RMP should acknowledge "no net loss" of public lands and that lands will remain public. Exchanges to benefit management should be explored, but no disposals. Identify how public involved in land transfers. Consider high wildlife values in exchanges.
172-06	Fire management should be addressed including when and why prescribed burns will occur, consideration for habitat, rehabilitation after prescribed or wild fire, special seed mix needs, plans for noxious weed management.
172-07	In area there are several game species that provide significant recreation and economic value. Develop plan in coordination with AGFD and acknowledge economic value of wildlife species to local economies.
172-08	Address impacts to birds like grass residues required for ground nesting birds after grazing, negative impacts of proposed wind towers on birds and other wildlife. Address fragmentation of habitats from proposed development.
172-09	Address how future land uses will be managed so they don't contribute to need for federal listing. Address T&E and sensitive species. Cumulative impacts analysis should be included.
172-10	Address how water resources will be protected and enhanced. Specify best management practices.
172-11	Determine desired future conditions for vegetation. Address grazing allotment plans and stocking rates, grazing intensity, timing, duration.
172-12	Address special problems droughts bring to vegetation management and establish protocols for reduction in livestock use

Appendix B
Comment Summary Table*

Comment No.**	Comment Summary
	during drought conditions. Identify best management practices. Leave residual herbage for habitat and food.
172-13	Reference all pertinent guidelines in grazing plans. Develop residual forage standards for all allotment plans. Address stocking rates, seasons of use, class of livestock, strategies to reduce grazing if necessary.
172-14	Address problem of invasive, nonnative vegetation and how grazing impacts this problem. All land uses should limit growth of invasive plants. Use fire for this carefully. If fire used, limit livestock use for two years.
172-15	Address how OHV will be managed including policies for management. Identify required signing and enforcement.
172-16	All historical, cultural, and special features should be maintained. RMP should detail how this will be accomplished.
173-01	Mailing list request.
174-01	Allow staff access to manage wilderness.
175-01	You need more staff to protect our wilderness.
176-01	Open access to manage wilderness.
177-01	Identification and protection of wild lands with wilderness characteristics.
178-01	No more wilderness.
179-01	More controlled burns with revegetation of cottonwood and willow. Use methods that work.
180-01	No further wilderness or wilderness study areas.
181-01	Leave it alone.
182-01	Leave it as/is with no changes.
183-01	No more wilderness or wilderness studies.
184-01	More wilderness. Best way to protect areas that qualify. Need corridors to connect areas for wildlife.
185-01	Wilderness is a multiple use itself. Protect wilderness and cultural, environmental, non-motorized, scenic, etc.
186-01	OHV vs. no OHV? What do we do?
187-01	Current roads and washes need to remain as/is.
188-01	OHV: closed unless posted open. Designate a trails network.
189-01	Sear's Point needs to be in the plan.
190-01	How and who do we get rid of trash at the confluence?
191-01	Protect the antiquities and use maximum sentences.
192-01	Leave it alone.
193-01	If Sears Point and other cultural sites cannot be patrolled 24 hours then fence them off.
194-01	We want to ride horseback on existing trails (made by burros) with minimum government interference. Country along Colorado River from La Paz to below Cibola has been well-covered by miners and there is little undocumented cultural value left.
195-01	BLM should, as a service to the public, provide a highlighted map of cultural resources approved areas and keep it updated.
196-01	Hippy Hole should be closed for clean up, then made into a desert recreational camp ground.
197-01	Put original land sale back up asap.
198-01	A judge that the oval race track is not of Native American origin.
199-01	Will any of this land be available for recreational and public purpose use?
200-01	BLM should take over water catchments.
201-01	Would like to see public allotment of gravel increased from 250 pounds to 500 pounds.
202-01	Open the public land to private ownership.
203-01	Illegal dumping at 29E where old dairy was.
204-01	Maintain or improve access to remote areas.
205-01	Reopen historic routes and roads to old mines or ranches which have been closed.
206-01	Do not allow visitors to blaze new routes except across sand (wash or dunes) or to retrieve game.
207-01	Prosecute those who leave litter.

*Table includes summaries of all written and meeting (flip-chart) comments received during scoping period.

**Comment numbers are formatted to indicate the letter number, followed by the comment number. For example, comment number 1-05 would be letter number 1, comment 5.